

Soviet minister asks for 'massive cooperation'

NEW YORK (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, in his first meeting with President Bush, called Tuesday for "massive cooperation" from the West to rebuild the country's economy. Mr. Bush said the Soviets need to move ahead on reforms. "The question is now not to wait and see how things develop in our country, but already to take very resolute action in providing both short-term and immediate humanitarian relief and assistance," Mr. Pankin said. Also, the foreign minister said, the Soviets need "medium-term cooperation and assistance in the form of loans and credits." And finally, he said, "we also expect some massive cooperation in the economic area." Mr. Bush said: "There wasn't any pricing or package put forward, but I reiterated our view of wanting to help with humanitarian assistance, whether it's medical, whether it's food, and then the need to get on with the reforms so the free market and technical assistance... can move forward." Mr. Bush has promised to provide food and medicine to help the Soviets through the coming winter but so far has ruled out direct U.S. financial help.

Jordan Times

Independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Fernch soldier killed in Zaire intervention

PARIS (R) — A French soldier was shot dead and at least one other was wounded when French troops intervened in Zaire capital, Kinshasa, on Tuesday to protect foreign residents from rioting army mutineers, an official French source said. The soldier was helping to round up some of the 3,500 French residents when shooting broke out in the barricaded streets, the source said. France sent some 450 soldiers to Zaire from bases elsewhere in Africa to protect its nationals. Belgium was sending 500 paratroops to help to evacuate its civilians.

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PNC debates Mideast peace: Palestinian hardliners toughen stance; moderates urge attendance; Ashrawi, Hussein to meet Baker in U.S.

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — Two Palestinians will travel to the United States this week for talks with Secretary of State James Baker on a planned Middle East peace conference, according to officials attending a Palestinian congress.

However, George Habash, leader of a hardline PLO faction, called Tuesday on Palestinians to reject the American peace plan. He outlined a "programme of struggle" against Israel to create a Palestinian state.

Mr. Habash's remarks in an address to delegates of the Palestine National Council, on the second day of their four-day meeting, underlined the divisions over Palestinian participation in the peace conference, which PLO leader Yasser Arafat is trying to reconcile.

Mr. Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said his "programme of struggle" would inflict "economic, human and material losses on the Israeli enemy."

In his speech Monday opening the 20th congress of the PNC, the Palestinians' parliament-in-exile, Mr. Arafat said he was prepared to do everything for peace, all the while reiterating his contempt for Israeli conditions for a peace conference.

The 466-member body, considered the Palestinians' parliament-in-exile, was to elect its executive committee Tuesday, with reports that Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front, could lose his post.

PNC spokesman Ahmed Abdul Rahman announced late Monday that two Palestinian delegates from East Jerusalem would go to New York or Washington later this week for further consultations with Mr. Baker.

Faisal Hussein and Hanan Ashrawi, hand-picked by the PLO, have had several meetings with Mr. Baker, including last week, during the latter's Middle East tour.

It was not clear whether the

two were in Algeria to attend the meeting of the PNC. Israel has forbidden Palestinians from Israel or the occupied Arab territories from meeting with the PLO. A government spokesman said they would be prosecuted if they broke that law.

In a closed-door session Monday, Farouk Kaddoumi, who acts as the PLO's foreign minister, said the PLO must adapt to the changing world order. Congress source's on Tuesday quoted Mr. Kaddoumi as saying that the PNC generally favours Mr. Baker's plan for a peace conference, but has reservations over the Palestinian representation.

Mr. Abdul Rahman, speaking to reporters late Monday, said the PLO was willing to take part in a peace conference on condition that Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, the Palestinian right to self-determination and the right to a homeland were guaranteed.

While the congress convened to decide on Palestinians' re-

sponse to the proposed Arab-Israeli talks, a senior PLO official downplayed expectations.

"I don't think this council will decide whether Palestinians will attend the peace conference," said Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO's executive committee. "I think it will decide the guidelines for Palestinians to attend such a conference," he told reporters.

Mahmoud Aloul, an Arafat aide, said the PLO leader's speech showed he was willing to talk peace with Israel without selling out Palestinians' basic rights.

In his opening speech, Mr. Arafat compared Israeli conditions to blackmail. "Let everyone know that we reject Israeli blackmail and Israeli conditions," Mr. Arafat said. "We do that from our position of responsibility as representing the Palestinian people."

He called on President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev to "do all within

your power to resolve the Middle East problem... in conformity with international law."

Israel has set the rule that PLO members or Palestinians from East Jerusalem may not participate in the peace talks.

Since the talks were announced in July, the PLO has insisted it names the Palestinian representatives, who would include Palestinians from East Jerusalem. The PLO envisions a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. Israel calls Jerusalem its capital.

In routine business Monday, the delegates re-elected PNC speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, 85.

On Tuesday, the PNC was to elect a new executive committee, the PLO's 15-member decision-making body, and raise its membership to 18. Current members include veteran fighters, a professor and a Palestinian poet.

Of note is whether executive committee member Abdul Abbas,

Jordan, Yemen sign broad trade agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday called at the Yemeni Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas at his residence and reviewed with him the latest developments in the region and the efforts being made to push the Mideast peace process forward. The King and Mr. Attas also reviewed bilateral relations. King Hussein was accompanied on his visit by Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Jordan and Yemen Tuesday agreed to increase the volume of trade between the two countries to \$10 million, including \$5 million to cover industrial sales contracts. The agreement was made at the end of a two-day meetings of the Joint Higher Jordanian-Yemeni Committee, which ratified the minutes of the meetings.

The agreement provides for facilitating administrative procedures, governing the issuance of import licences from the Yemeni ministry of supply and trade, and for instructing government institutions in both countries, where possible, to import from each other. It further called for speeding up work on the establishment of a Yemeni trade centre in Amman.

The agreement calls on the private sector in both countries,

represented by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, professional unions, the business community and exporters and contractors associations, to set up joint projects.

The two parties also agreed to form a joint industrial committee which will meet once every year in either Amman or Sanaa. The committee will be entrusted with studying the needs of the industrial sector and discussing prospects of setting up joint projects in both countries.

In response to a proposal made by the Jordanian side, the two parties agreed to form a joint company for fishing and fish industry, and stressed the need for giving the private sector a major role in such an investment.

In the area of health, the two parties agreed to exchange specialised medical teams and to appoint medical attaches at Jordanian and Yemeni embassies in Sanaa and Amman.

The attaches will work out arrangements, designed to lower the cost of treatment of Yemeni patients at Jordanian government hospitals before the end of this year.

In the area of oil and mining, the two sides agreed to set up joint companies for oil, gas and

other related services.

In the area of public works, it was agreed that Jordanian contractors and consultants be accorded priority in bidding for contracts in Yemen, in accordance with the rules and regulations in force there. The Jordanian side would provide advice and technical expertise to the Yemeni side in developing methods of work and to draw up the necessary legislation and regulations to improve performance of this sector.

The two sides also agreed to invite specialised maritime transport companies to hold a meeting within a maximum period of three months to study the possibility of operating a regular sea route and to increase the number of flights by each national airline to two flights a week.

The two sides also agreed to establish a permanent secretariat to follow up on the resolutions of the Higher Committee and the other sub-committees. The secretariat will meet once every three months and will present a progress report to the ministers of industry and trade in both countries.

The Jordanian side, headed by

King receives Australian politician

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received at the Royal Court the former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser. The audience was attended by the King's military secretary His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ibn Mohammad, and the Australian ambassador to Jordan.

Cabinet appoints media officials

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet decided Tuesday to appoint Fayez Al Qadhi, a former advisor at the Ministry of Information, as director of Radio Jordan and Ibrahim Shalabi, former director of Radio Jordan, as Jordan Television director. Former director of Jordan Television Mohammad Amin was appointed as an advisor at the Ministry of Information, according to the decision. The decision takes effect as of Oct. 1, 1991. The Cabinet also decided to grant the Agricultural Credit Corporation a JD 5 million loan without interest to be paid over 15 years.

Moroccan dissident dies in custody

RABAT (R) — A militant of Morocco's Communist opposition Party of Progress and Socialism died in custody after being beaten by security forces, the party's paper Al Bayane reported on Tuesday. The paper said Lemseguem Al Hachemi, 37, a street vegetable vendor, was arrested on Saturday when security forces raided a street market in Casablanca. Abderrahman, one of his five children, later saw him lying unconscious on the floor of the local municipal offices. He was taken to hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival. The paper said a death certificate issued on Monday stated he had died of natural causes in the municipal offices. In an editorial, the paper said Hachemi's death was "a veritable assassination committed by security forces."

Turkish troops kill 7 PKK fighters

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Turkish troops, locked in a bitter war with Kurdish separatist guerrillas, killed seven rebels in four clashes, security officials said on Tuesday. The clashes took place on Monday in three of 13 mainly Kurdish eastern and southeastern provinces under emergency rule. Three fighters of the outlawed Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) were killed in a security swoop on Dicle town, in Diyarbakir province. Two died in a clash in Mutki in Bitlis province and one was killed in Dilek village in Diyarbakir province.

Saudi Al Faisal mediates between Qatar, Bahrain

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, stepping up Riyadh's mediation in a growing territorial dispute between Bahrain and Qatar, met Bahrain's Emir Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa on Tuesday.

The official Gulf news agency said Prince Saud Al Faisal discussed Gulf Arab issues with the Emir, Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, and acting Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

There were no further details but diplomats said Prince Saud's visit indicated Saudi Arabia had reacted to an escalating tit-for-tat series of accusations and provocations between the two countries. "The Saudis seem to have taken the latest hints quite seriously," one diplomat commented. Prince Saud met Qatar's Emir Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani in Doha earlier on Tuesday.

Last week Qatar protested to Bahrain that Bahraini gunboats

had twice opened fire on Qatari vessels. Bahrain denied the charges and reiterated its calls for Saudi mediation to solve the dispute, which centres on a cluster of small but potentially oil-rich islands, reefs and sandbars.

For the first time, both countries gave their respective statements a high profile in local media. Gulf-based military sources said in one of the incidents reported by Qatar, Bahraini coast-guard vessels had chased away a Qatari boat surveying an area in the Fasht Al Atham reef between the two countries. The sources said they were not aware of any shots being fired.

In another incident, Qatar took prisoner several Bahraini fishermen — mainly of Asian origin — off the disputed Fasht Al Dibal reef, the sources said. Qatar took the dispute to the International Court of Justice in the Hague last July.

Sri Lankan president accuses Mossad of plotting against him

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, fighting against a campaign to have him impeached, on Tuesday accused the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad of plotting against him.

"Mossad has been activated against me because I closed the Israeli interests section in the American embassy," Mr. Premadasa told the opening session of parliament in a speech almost drowned out by heckling opposition members.

"There are some people in the government who had lectured at an Israeli university and are acting as Mossad agents," he said. He did not identify the alleged agents.

Former Education Minister Lath Athulathandali, leader of a group of dissident members of the ruling United National Party who with opposition members have signed an impeachment motion against the president, once lectured at an Israeli university.

Colombo cut diplomatic ties with Israel 20 years ago but in 1984 then President Junius Jayewardene allowed an Israeli intelligence section to be set up in the U.S. embassy in order to get aid to fight Tamil guerrillas.

Mr. Premadasa closed the session in April last year to keep an election promise to Sri Lankan Muslims.

The president made his speech to parliament on Tuesday amid some of the most unruly scenes in the house since independence in 1948.

He was opening a new session a month after suspending parliament to delay an early debate on the impeachment motion, which charges him with abusing power and violating the constitution.

Parliamentary speaker Mohammad Haniffa publicly apologized to Mr. Premadasa for what he called the "undecorous behaviour."

"I regret that the opposition has failed to keep the undertaking they gave me that there will be no disturbances," Mr. Mohammad said.

Signatories to the impeachment say their main aim is to dismantle presidential government and replace it with a more democratic parliamentary system.

Mr. Premadasa ignored a request by chief opposition whip Richard Pathirane to refrain from addressing parliament in light of the impeachment motion.

Bush warns Iraq 'not to miscalculate'; Iraqis detain U.N. team for second time

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. President George Bush warned Iraq Tuesday "not to miscalculate" on compliance with unconditional U.N. inspections, saying President Saddam risked more anguish being inflicted on the Iraqi people.

Mr. Bush told reporters the United States was still assessing the detention of U.N. inspectors who were not allowed to take documents away from what U.S. officials described as a Baghdad building that was part of Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons programme.

"Having said that, we do know enough about it to know that this is very serious business and that Saddam Hussein ought not to miscalculate. We don't want to see any more anguish inflicted on the Iraqi people," he said.

"Overriding that is the international community's determination that these resolutions be fully complied with," Mr. Bush said referring to U.N. resolutions requiring Iraq to allow U.N. inspectors full access to its weapons sites and permit destruction of its weapons of mass destruction.

"I don't know how to say it any clearer than that. You don't make decisions of this magnitude that could have an effect on human life without having all the information. I learned that some time ago," he said.

The United States this week has been discussing with the

Aziz accuses team of spying for U.S.

NICOSIA (R) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz accused U.N. weapons inspectors held by security forces in central Baghdad on Tuesday of carrying out espionage for the United States.

He told a press conference in Baghdad the 45 inspectors were exceeding their U.N. mandate to search for evidence of Iraq's nuclear weapons programme.

Iraq would not allow them to serve "the purpose of the American and enemy intelligence," Mr. Aziz said according to the official news agency INA.

four permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — Britain, France, the Soviet Union and China — the possibility of setting a 48-hour deadline for Iraq to comply or else U.S. warplanes would escort U.N. helicopters on their inspection missions.

Mr. Bush said he was not at the point of declaring a deadline and added, "If I do, I'll make it very clear."

"But that's not what we're about now. We want to make sure we know the facts," he said.

Meanwhile, a U.N. nuclear weapons inspection team was detained by Iraqi security officials in central Baghdad on Tuesday for the second time in two days, U.N. officials said.

Team leader David Kay told reporters by car telephone the group was being held outside a building after being ordered out

wanted "to protect employees from enemy intelligence."

Mr. Kay told American Cable News Network television by telephone as night approached that morale in his team was "very high."

"We approach the evening with some confidence but yet some concern being in the middle of an Iraqi security cordon in Baghdad at nightfall with no lights on the site. It's probably not the most pleasant experience in the world."

He said there had been no negotiations for almost four hours. "They broke off when the Iraqis demanded, without any compromise, that we turn over all film and videotape that we have taken today as well as documentation."

Mr. Kay said the team had refused to comply. "We are not willing to turn over film and videotape. This is an absolute essential for an inspection effort," he added.

"The Iraqis said well if that's the way you feel you can stay here until you decide to turn it over and the head of the negotiating side for the Iraqis simply withdrew."

Reporters were not able to see the group. The Iraqi officials said only some of the group were still there "while discussions were continuing."

Mr. Kay said the group had sent out for food and water.

Rafsanjani slams Bush on Zionism; Israel seeks speedy annulment

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said on Tuesday President George Bush's call for the U.N. to repeal a resolution equating Zionism with racism betrayed U.S. pro-Israeli bias in its Middle East peace drive.

"The American president, who claims he is seeking peace for the Palestinian nation, proved by his words that he is trying to wipe off stains resulting from Israel's racism," Tehran radio quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying.

"This shows that the so-called Middle East peace conference is geared towards Israel's interests, not a redress of the oppressed Palestinian nation's rights," Mr. Rafsanjani said at a ceremony opening the academic year at Tehran University.

Mr. Bush, in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly on Monday, urged it to repeal the 1975 resolution, saying it amounted to challenging Israel's right to exist.

Pankin calls for repeal of resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin on Tuesday called for repeal of the U.N. General Assembly resolution equating Zionism and racism. Speaking in Russian, he made only brief reference to the 1975 anti-Zionism resolution, prefacing his call for its repeal by saying that the new international solidarity signifies a "de-ideologisation" of the United Nations.

Israel claims the resolution is one reason why it has refused to accept a U.N. role in an Arab-Israeli peace conference Washington is trying to convene jointly with Moscow next month.

Iran's Islamic leaders, who say the Jewish state should be destroyed, oppose the talks.

Israel on the other hand will seek the annulment of the 1975 U.N. resolution during the present session of the General Assembly, the Israeli ambassador to the world body said Tuesday.

"The fact that the United States policy, through its president, supported the repealing of the resolution certainly gives us hope that indeed it will be repealed," the ambassador, Yoram Aridor, told Israel army radio.

Asked whether he would seek a cancellation vote in this General Assembly session, he said: "This is the direction of our efforts, but we won't propose the cancellation formally unless we are certain of a victory."

Mr. Bush's remarks Monday were seen as a possible gesture to the Jewish state after the bitter conflict over U.S. aid to Israel for immigrant absorption.

7 killed in Lebanese shootout

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Four Lebanese army soldiers and three civilians were killed in a shooting incident apparently linked to a car theft, the Defence Ministry said Tuesday.

It said three other soldiers were wounded in the shooting Monday night in Maaser Al Shouf, a mountain village 38 kilometres southeast of Beirut.

It gave little details of the incident. It said the soldiers were investigating the robbery of a car from Shweifat, on the southeastern outskirts of Beirut, when they were attacked by gunmen.

The stolen car, a Datsun, was found abandoned in Maaser Al Shouf. It was not immediately clear how the three civilians were caught in the clash.

Meanwhile, the army cordoned off the village in the Shouf mountains, stronghold of the Druze chief Walid Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

The PSP militia was one of the major factions recently disbanded by the army as part of the civil war peace accord.

Mr. Junblatt serves as a minister without portfolio in the Lebanese government, which is overseeing implementation of the accord after 16 years of civil war in which an estimated 150,000 were killed.

A Reuters report said troops had seized a Christian gunman who killed nine people in the mountain town apparently to avenge the deaths of his parents and brothers.

An army statement quoted by Reuters said a patrol captured Shawkat Fouad Shakar, 28, near Maaser Al Shouf, 30 kilometres southeast of Beirut, at dawn after an overnight search.

Mr. Shakar drove to the town Monday from Beirut and shot and killed two civilians and a hunter, the agency quoted militia sources as saying. He then killed a passing Lebanese soldier, it said.

He opened fire on an army patrol, killing three soldiers, and escaped into the rugged country around the town. Troops searching for him later found the bodies of two other civilians he killed, according to the Reuters report. There was no immediate explanation to the conflicting versions of the incident.

The Druze sources quoted by Reuters said Mr. Shakar's parents were killed in the town in 1983 during the "mountain war" between militiamen. He and his brother fled to sanctuary in east Beirut.

Mr. Shakar's brother returned to Maaser Al Shouf last year and shot dead a civilian before being killed at a PSP checkpoint.

Lebanese group promises to free British hostage

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Pro-Iranian kidnappers said early Tuesday that within 48 hours they will release British hostage Jack Mann, 77, the oldest of the Western hostages who was abducted more than two years ago.

The move by the Revolutionary Justice Organisation appeared to indicate a logjam in the complex negotiations by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for a comprehensive exchange of Western captives for Arab prisoners held by Israel, and possibly European countries as well, has been broken.

A handwritten communique from the Shiite Muslim group said the decision to free Mr. Mann was the result of "immense efforts" by Mr. Perez de Cuellar. He has been seeking to negotiate an overall prisoner swap between Israel and its foes for more than a month.

In Nicosia, Cyprus, Mr. Mann's wife Sunnie said, "I think this time it will come off. But it's still nerve-racking waiting around."

"It was so excited the last time. This time I'm trying to be a little more cautious," she said, her white poodle Missy licking her face.

If her husband of more than 50 years is released, Mrs. Mann hopes to fly to Damascus to meet him. She last saw him the day he was kidnapped — May 12, 1989.

In a dispatch from Beirut,

Iran's official Islamic Republic news agency said Mr. Mann will be freed by midnight (2100 GMT Tuesday), or 24 hours before the deadline for his release set by his captors in a statement released earlier Tuesday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, attributed its report to "informed sources" in Beirut. The two-paragraph report gave no other details.

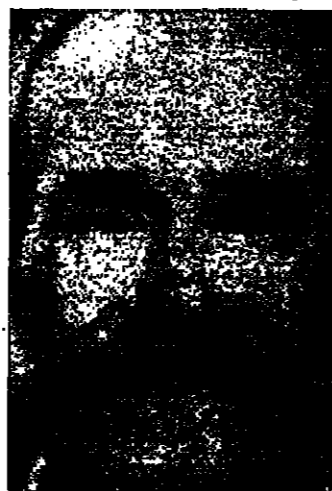
A senior Iranian official was quoted Tuesday as saying all Western hostages held by Shiite Muslim fundamentalists in Lebanon will be freed by January, the official Islamic Republic news agency said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati accused Israel in an interview with the English-language Tehran Times of trying to block United Nations efforts to secure the release of the Westerners in return for Arab detainees.

Excerpts of the interview, published in the English-language newspaper, were carried by IRNA, monitored in Nicosia.

Mr. Besharati, reportedly one of senior Iranian diplomats trying to help mediate the release of the captives, said Iran was optimistic that the "Zionist plot would be neutralised," and that "by January, all hostages irrespective of their nationalities will be able to go home."

Revolutionary justice said in Thursday's statement that no more of the remaining 11 Westerners missing in Lebanon would be



Jack Mann freed until Israel released another 20 Arabs.

The kidnappers authenticated that communique with a coloured photograph of Mr. Ciccipio that was identical to the one issued early Tuesday.

The Westerners missing in Lebanon comprise five Americans, three Britons, two Germans and Italian. But important Shiite sources have said one of the Britons and the Italian are dead.

Tuesday's 33-line communique noted: "The United Nations has intervened in the person of the secretary-general and other intermediaries with immense efforts to salvage the situation."

"They sought to narrow the gap and reach solutions satisfactory to all parties," it added.

Tuesday's communique, written in Arabic, was delivered a few minutes after midnight (2100 GMT Monday) to Beirut's An Nahar daily and a Western news agency office.

It was accompanied by an authenticating photograph of American hostage Joseph Ciccipio, also held by the Revolutionary Justice Organisation.

Mr. Ciccipio, 61, was kidnapped in Beirut Sept. 12, 1986. The poor-quality photo showed him from the waist up, sporting a bushy beard and without the spectacles he usually wears.

Iran's Tehran Times newspaper in an article for publication Wednesday also quoted sources close to the kidnappers in Lebanon as saying that a Briton and an American will be freed this week.

The kidnappers' statement indicated that obstacles to the delicate negotiations to free the Western hostages, which apparently blocked the expected release of Mr. Mann last week, had been overcome.

Mr. Mann had been expected to be freed after Israel on Sept. 11 released 51 Arab prisoners and the bodies of nine Lebanese Shiite fighters killed by the Israelis in south Lebanon.

But Revolutionary Justice claimed Thursday that Israel had pledged to release 80 prisoners and Mr. Mann was not freed.

The Shiite factions freed Britons John McCarthy and American Edward Tracy in August after years in captivity.

Israel defiant despite Bush gesture

By Daniel Reed Reuter

TEL AVIV — Despite a gesture by President George Bush to reassure them of U.S. support, Israeli leaders are still talking tough.

Mr. Bush Monday called on the United Nations General Assembly to repeal a 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism.

The call was widely interpreted as an attempt by Mr. Bush to ease Israel-U.S. relations troubled by the peace process and by construction of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

But the call brought only a brief intermission in the war of words between the two countries.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Monday night that Israel would continue to build settle-

ments in the territories even at the risk of losing loan guarantees from Washington.

"We won't freeze the settlements at any price. Not even at the cost of the American loan guarantees ... The cost of not getting the guarantees is simply higher interest rates. We can put up with that," Mr. Arens told reporters.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir praised Bush's call. He said it was touching, impressive and very convincing — but he also indicated Israel would not compromise on the occupied territories.

"In my opinion there is no longer a green line," Mr. Shamir told reporters in Jerusalem, referring to the imaginary line that defines Israel's pre-1967 borders.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyami Netanyahu was more explicit.

"We (Israel and the U.S.) both agree that we must oppose this resolution because we both agree that the Jewish people have a right to a state of their own."

"Where we disagree is how wide that state will be. The U.S. says get out of the territories. We say we can't have a country 10 miles (16 km) wide and survive."

Mr. Netanyahu told NBC news. U.N. Resolution 3379, which declared Zionism to be a form of racism and racial discrimination, was passed by a 72-35 majority with 35 abstentions.

Mr. Bush said Monday that the resolution "rejects Israel itself" and must be repealed in order for the U.N. to truly seek peace.

It was Mr. Bush's first conciliatory remark towards Israel since a touch speech on Sept. 6 in which he said he would veto loan guarantees to Israel if they were

approved in Congress. Israel wants the guarantees to be able to borrow \$10 billion on world markets to help settle new immigrants from the Soviet Union.

U.S. officials have linked the guarantees to a halt in Israel's settlement drive in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and its cooperation in the peace process.

Israel's left-wing Peace Now Organisation sent a message to Mr. Shamir's Monday condemning the government's settlement policy.

"On the eve of the U.N. discussion to cancel its horrible decision comparing Zionism with racism, your government announces it is cancelling the green line, which is the buffer between Zionism and a bi-national apartheid state," it said.

Velayati attacks U.S. Mideast peace plan

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iran's foreign minister on Monday attacked U.S. plans for a Middle East peace conference, saying they were geared to Israel's needs and would create havoc for the Palestinians.

Addressing the U.N. General Assembly, Ali Akbar Velayati said the proposed Middle East peace conference had little relevance to the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Velayati did not mention the United States or U.S. Secretary of State James Baker by name but it was obvious he was referring to the secretary's efforts to organise the conference by the end of October.

The sharp tone of Mr.

Velayati's comments surprised Western diplomats who pointed out Tehran's cooperation with the United Nations in attempting to free hostages in Lebanon.

"How could the international conference, even if held as proposed, restore the right of self-determination to the Palestinian people under circumstances in which Israel becomes more and more obdurate?" Mr. Velayati asked.

He said the Palestinians faced increasing repression, Jewish settlers continued to come into the territories unabated and Israel continued its occupation of Lebanese territory.

Therefore he said the Palestinians were justified in placing "all

their hopes in their glorious intifada," a reference to the uprisings against Israeli rule.

He said the new world order following the end of the superpower rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States did not mean domination by a single power.

Otherwise, he said, any new order will "fail to usher in an atmosphere of confidence, let alone ensure effective international cooperation."

Under Mr. Baker's proposals, the conference will take place under U.S. and Soviet auspices. It cannot impose solutions and after an opening session will break up into bilateral talks between Israel and its neighbours.



Ali Akbar Velayati

Iraq hands over documents

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq, under threat of U.S. military intervention, handed over documents on its nuclear weapons programme on Tuesday but a Vienna-based U.N. agency said inspectors had not received the most sensitive ones.

Iraqi officials said the documents, at the centre of the latest row between Iraq and the United Nations, were delivered to team leader David Kay at his Baghdad hotel.

The inspectors, who were held for five hours at a Baghdad compound on Monday, have said the documents they saw there showed Iraq's nuclear weapons programme was much further advanced than had previously been suspected.

But the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Tuesday some of the material was missing from the load the Iraqis had now handed over.

"An Iraqi official showed up at the hotel bedroom of the chief inspector at 1.30 in the morning and handed over documents in some cardboard boxes," spokesman David Kydd said.

"None of the most sensitive ones, nor the microfilms or microfiches from the previous day, were there," he added.

The row has added to suspicions that Iraq is still trying to hide some of its weapons of mass destruction, which under Gulf war ceasefire resolution the United Nations has the right to seek out and destroy.

U.S. President George Bush on Monday cited the incident as evidence of Iraqi contempt for U.N. resolutions.

The United States is seeking U.N. support for assigning armed air escorts to the inspection teams so they can travel about in U.N. helicopters free of Iraqi restrictions.

Washington has also asked the Security Council to consider giving Iraq a 48-hour ultimatum to allow unhindered access.

In Bahrain, the field headquarters for U.N. teams flying in and out of Iraq, a U.N. official said the inspectors could have an armed escort for their helicopters, from next Sunday.

Alastair Livingston, field operations chief for the U.N. special commission on the destruction of

Rockets hit Najibullah's home

KABUL (R) — Afghan rebels fired rockets into President Najibullah's hometown Monday, killing five civilians and wounding 15, official Kabul Radio reported.

The radio said the surface-to-surface missiles launched by the Pakistan-based Mujahideen hit the eastern town of Gardez, which the Muslim guerrillas have vowed to capture.

A government spokesman said earlier guerrilla attacks had killed and injured many people in the town over the last week.

But he said government planes had attacked a rebel convoy, causing substantial damage, and the rebels had failed to penetrate a security belt some 25 kilometres from Gardez.

Government forces still control an important security post at Sitalkand in mountains separating Gardez from the rebel-held Khost area, he said.

"We are expecting such an aggressive act," he added.

Do you mean a new attack? he was asked. "We should be wary at all times," he replied.

Mr. Livingston said the 45-member nuclear team now in Iraq was scheduled to come out on Saturday and a 13-member biological weapons team also in the country would follow five days later.

But if tension escalated, the U.N. inspectors could leave early and go back with armed escorts, he added.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

Police seeking killer of 'Satanic Verses' translator

TOKYO — Police investigating the murder of the Japanese translator of "The Satanic Verses" more than two months ago say they have found only one clue — the murderer's footprints.

"We have nothing else yet," said a police official on Tuesday. Professor Hitoshi Igarashi, 44, was stabbed to death at a campus of Tsukuba University, 60 kilometres northeast of Tokyo, on July 11.

Iran's Islamic authorities had condemned "The Satanic Verses" as blasphemous two years ago and sentenced author Salman Rushdie to death. He has lived in hiding in Britain ever since.

More than two months after the killing, police declined to say whether Mr. Igarashi's death was linked to publication of the Japanese version of the novel.

So far, they said, the only clue to the killer's identity came from blood-stained footprints left at the scene of the crime.

They indicated that the man or

Police seeking killer of 'Satanic Verses' translator

woman who murdered Mr. Igarashi wore 27.5 cm Chinese-made sandals and was more than 180 cm tall.

Similar sandals were sold in Japan, he said.

The official said police were still investigating but had so far not asked any foreign authorities for help.

Mr. Igarashi was the second Rashid translator to be attacked in July. Ettore Capriolo, 61, who translated the book into Italian, was stabbed at his Milan flat on July 3.

Mr. Capriolo suffered cuts to the neck, arms and chest and was kicked and beaten on the head by a man who said he was an Iranian, police said.

An Iranian dissident group based in Baghdad said in July that the Tehran government had sent hit-squads to kill Mr. Rushdie and was also behind attacks on his Italian and Japanese translators. Iran has denied their charges.

Ethiopian civil war claimed 1/2 million troops

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — The defence minister says an estimated 550,000 government soldiers were killed in the civil war, nearly half in the five months of intense battle before former President Mengistu Haile Mariam fled in May.

Quoting ministry records, Defence Minister Siye Abraha said in two long interviews with Ethiopian television over the weekend that the toppled regime had recruited and trained more than a million people during Gen. Mengistu's 17-year rule.

At least 230,000 soldiers were killed in fighting between January and May when rebels seized control of the capital and another 300,000 were believed killed in the preceding 17 years, said Mr. Siye.

Mr. Siye was named to the ministry of defence post after the Ethiopian people's Revolutionary Democratic Front seized control of the government May 28.

Gen. Mengistu fled to Zimbabwe a week before the takeover which followed heavy fighting and unprecedented gains by the rebels as they pushed south from their homeland in the northern province of Tigré.

Mr. Siye said ministry records showed that Gen. Mengistu, who was heavily subsidised by the Soviets from the late 1970s until the late 1980s, spent \$9.4 billion on arms purchases. The purchases included 224 warplanes and helicopter gunships, 1,700 tanks, 1,300 armoured personnel carriers and more than 4,000 pieces of heavy artillery and anti-aircraft guns, said Mr. Siye.

"Under Gen. Mengistu, the defence budget rose from about \$53 million in 1974 to \$1.1 billion in 1991, said the defence minister.

The total arms purchases and the defence and security budget was \$17.3 billion in 17 years, a huge expenditure for an impoverished nation, Mr. Siye said.

Gen. Mengistu poured the money into his effort to crush civil war in the northern provinces of Eritrea, where secessionist rebels had been fighting since 1962.

Kuwaiti youths influenced by American dress, manners

By Donna Abu Nasr The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — Since Kuwait's liberation from Iraq's seven-month occupation in February by U.S.-led forces, Kuwaiti teenagers have taken to imitating their "saviors" in dress, hairstyle and manners.

This has caused concern among many traditional Kuwaitis, who fear their young men are being lured away from the Arab traditions that have dominated this closed society for centuries.

"I've seen pencils walk and swagger in the streets, in front of supermarkets ... women, wives and mothers," wrote a distraught citizen in the Al Qabas daily.

The writer was referring to the bared legs of Kuwaiti youths sticking out of bermuda shorts, a sight that was uncommon even a year ago. He urged police to take action.

The new Kuwaitis can mostly be seen in the main street of the middle-class Salmiyah area. Young men dressed in T-shirts, jeans and shorts — instead of the dishdasha, the traditional robe of the Gulf Arabs — drive around in sleek new cars with disco music blaring out the windows.

Others swagger in the streets with marine haircuts, posturing girls and laughing loudly.

Several papers have denounced the "Americanisation" of Kuwaiti youth.

"Whether we like it or not, we are Muslim Arabs. This means we have traditions, values and a culture taken from the religion," said an editorial in Al Qabas.

"We should not disclaim them," Many young men say they are just imitating America's "good aspects."

"We're not blindly imitating the Americans," said Mubashir Sarraf, 20, a student. "We're just copying the nice things."

"I had this marine haircut because I want to imitate the Americans," said Hamed Ahmed As Salem, 19, a student.

"The Americans are not like the Arabs," he added. "When they make up their minds to do something, they do it. They don't procrastinate."

Some, however, are still self-conscious about their new attire.

An 18-year-old in cutoff jeans said he hid behind the canned food stand at a supermarket rather than having his uncle see him in shorts.

"I would have felt ashamed if he had seen me in shorts," the young man who gave his name as Mubashir explained.

Kuwaiti clinical sexologist, Fawzia Dora'i said the phenomenon was related to the occupation, and an unconscious expression of gratitude for the Americans for their role in liberating Kuwait.

"There's a lot of anger in these young people against Saddam Hussein," she said. "They need to express it, but Saddam is not here."

Kuwaiti youths influenced by American dress, manners

So the young men have transferred their anger against their society," she added. "It gives them satisfaction to see someone shocked at the way they're dressed."

"In addition, these young men look up to the Americans as their saviors. One way of expressing their gratitude is by imitating them," she noted.

Ms. Dora'i added that Kuwaiti society was poorly equipped to deal with this youthful experimentation.

"I hope this rebellion will be treated wisely," she said. "But everybody is a bit unbalanced after the traumatic events, so even the parents are in no position to help their children."

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa 732056
Dr. Fakhri Bilal 625778
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Nairoudh pharmacy 636562
Al Saleem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Smoosini pharmacy 637660

HEBBI:
Dr. Mazen Gharsibeh ()
Al Sissaa pharmacy (273825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Zaidineh Abdul Salam ()
Khalidh pharmacy 984417

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Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Raid 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Police Complaints 628900
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
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Electric Power

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HEBBI:
Dr. Mazen Gharsibeh ()
Al Sissaa pharmacy (273825)

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Dr. Zaidineh Abdul Salam ()
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EMER

PNC debates peace

(Continued from page 1)

suspected of masterminding the 1985 hijacking of the cruise ship Achille Lauro and planning the failed attack on an Israeli beach that led to the breaking of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, will retain his post.

Some PLO factions reportedly want him out to distance the PLO from terrorism.

Mr. Abbas told reporters Monday that he would leave the executive committee if voted out, but would not step aside voluntarily.

Patriots bypassed

Mr. Arafat advisor Nabil Shaath told Reuters Mr. Habib and other hardliners were "patriots who have been bypassed."

"The Palestinian answer is yes to the conference if we guarantee our reasonable red lines (minimum demands). They are not pretexts for rejection. They are reasonable conditions for entry (to the talks)," Mr. Shaath said.

Nayef Hawatmeh, the leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) addressing the full PNC later, said, "I invite all factions of the Palestinian revolution, to reject this peace conference under the formula proposed by the United States and to insist on an international conference according to international legality."

PLO officials said they were pursuing diplomatic contacts with the United States as the PNC debated the U.S. proposals.

PLO officials said they seek further written clarification on the U.S. stand on Palestinian representation at the conference and on the framework for the talks, including the question of new Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Shaath said the settlements problem "could make or break

the peace process."

Meanwhile, a group of younger Palestinian leaders seeking change at the top are demanding a complete overhaul of its executive.

"We must renew our policy and our leaders, and Yasser Arafat personally should lead this change," Nabil Amr, a 43-year-old Palestinian diplomat told Reuters.

"I totally share the analysis of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker when he said the Palestinians must seize this unique chance for peace offered by the peace conference... We Palestinians must seriously cooperate with the American stand for peace," he said.

Colleagues say Mr. Amr, currently PLO ambassador to Moscow, represents a new generation of pragmatic leaders whose realism contrasts with the inflated statements from the old guard heading factions both within and outside the PLO.

Mr. Arafat's own role appears unassailable, with Palestinians of all colours saying he remains the symbol of Palestinian nationhood.

Mr. Amr is reputed to be close to Mr. Arafat but it is not clear if the PLO leader shares any of his views.

Mr. Amr is the author of a confidential report which strongly criticises the management of the PLO and especially the consequences of its pro-Iraqi stand during the crisis.

"We are still suffering from the forces who opposed us after the ambiguity which came into our stand during the Gulf crisis... the new leadership will have to make major efforts to establish bridges with the forces which are shaping the new world order and cooperate with these forces with flexibility and responsibility," he said.

Drug abuse: Motivation, education, effects on the nation

By Barbara Atalla

LIFE pressures are genuine reasons why people abuse drugs and should be taken seriously. However, just discovering why people abuse drugs would not help them abstain. Many issues must be treated simultaneously by an addiction specialist.

Drug dependency, with its depth and dimensions, is one of the most widespread and costly illnesses facing us today. People need a better understanding of what it is they get addicted to, and what happens to people who suffer from this problem.

In the past, the term "addiction" had a very limited focus, being associated almost entirely with alcohol and other drugs. In reality, this is not the case at all. There are many addicts who have never used mood-altering chemicals in their rituals of getting high. There are hundreds of food addicts, addicted gamblers, sex addicts, shoplifters, addictive spenders, and many others who are living lives of emotional isolation, shame, and despair caused by their own brand of addiction.

People need help to monitor their identified addictions and prevent their transformation into other addictions. There is need for drug awareness education in Jordan. People can learn to make healthy choices if they have good decision-making skills, assertiveness and refusal skills coupled with healthy alternative ways of having fun or dealing with pressure and feeling good about themselves.

Young people in particular need positive life experiences and alternatives to chemicals. They need strong support so they feel good about the healthy choices they make. This takes place in the homes and in schools. We, as educators, (parents as well) need to help people develop resilience so when they are faced with tough decisions they are more apt to make healthy choices for themselves and the society.

The usual information we hear is: "Drugs are dangerous"; "Stop using drugs or don't start" or "If we ban all harmful drugs, people will not use and abuse them." The danger here is the lack of knowledge and up-to-date information on drugs. Many who seek help for abuse are told to stop using drugs and hear scare tactics, but are seldom told how to live comfortable lives without using/abusing drugs. Many also, who have become dependent, are given other drugs which will in time take them back to their drug of choice.

Much attention, here in Jordan, is put on illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine. We have an excellent law enforcement curbing the production and distribution of these illicit drugs into the country and these efforts merit our complete respect and support. However, experience has taught us that, if we are to deal effectively with this problem, we cannot simply chase away those who supply the substances. Enforcement is essential

and we have an admirable one, but we must at the same time develop a strong, healthy and informed population which neither requires nor desires those substances.

Jordan has set an example to the world in its humanitarian stance. Let us continue to move forward and be more open to our problems, so healing can take place. All of us must keep clear heads and clear hearts in order to fulfill our nation's goals. Those who consume and abuse drugs are contributing to the assassination of their country. They need not be punished, but treated. Until we recognise that, until users stop buying drugs and doctors gain more awareness of the dependency personality, people will always find new supplies when old ones have disappeared.

One of the most important elements in this awareness is that drugs are one of the leading causes of the spread of the AIDS virus.

Homes, studies and relationships are effected, the productivity and creativity in the workplace are also strained. Every alcoholic or other drug addict affects 4-7 people and society in general. What we usually hear is, "We don't have a drug problem in Jordan, just a few isolated cases." The discovery is that many people do not consider alcohol a drug, which it is. It is a sedative drug, not a stimulant as many people believe it to be. It is also a drug that is crime-related. Illicit drugs such as heroin and

cocaine appear to warrant all the attention. Indeed, it should be a great concern. Users steal to feed their habit and can become dealers. However, alcohol can be connected to much of the violence — physical and emotional abuse within the family system. Most heroin and cocaine users, use alcohol, either to switch drugs or to use for the withdrawal, restlessness, agitation, depression and sleeplessness caused by cessation.

Police and pathologists agree that we need a better drug-testing, data-collecting, evaluation and follow-up systems for the continuum of care for the population.

Glue, sniffing and other inhalants' usage is growing among the youth. Not to mention marijuana use. This is not a harmless little habit! These are known to be the gate-way drugs to alcohol, heroin, cocaine and other drug dependency. No one wakes up one morning and becomes a heroin addict or an alcoholic. It starts somewhere else, and many abusers may get treated for their emotional behaviours and/or withdrawals, but their primary illness many not be dealt with. They may get more or different medication which in time can take them back to their drug of choice and start the cycle all over again.

An alarming number of people in Jordan are unknowingly addicted to anti-anxiety drugs, valiums, sleeping pills, anti-depressants and diet pills. This is

largely ignored. People need to know if their medication is not monitored by a doctor, and they do not follow the prescribed usage and continue to buy and take this medication without the doctor's knowledge, there can undeniably be a problem that would lead to an advanced difficulty with many complications, physical and emotional. The worst affliction of all, is not knowing that indeed the reasons for such symptoms such as panic attacks, extreme anxiety, paranoia, fear and nausea and others, can be due to the withdrawal or toxic effect symptom.

Most people do not abuse these drugs every day at the beginning. After a period of time, these withdrawal symptoms may appear. According to the person and time usage. Addiction/dependency sets in when this occurs and the medication continues to relieve these signs. This cycle can be interrupted with a proper diagnosis. If it is not interrupted, the person will suffer longer. Dependency can lead to death, insane behaviour and insanity. There is no way out unless the abuse stops. In most cases, counselling and therapy are successful in uncovering underlying disorders rather than relying on drugs for symptomatic relief. Abrupt withdrawals from any drugs can lead to further problems and relapse. A medical expert should be consulted before making this decision to discontinue any medication.

Supplies will continue to flow

so long as our population continues to demand them, and people will continue to demand them until we change some beliefs and create adequate drug awareness. We have a real problem with pills, alcohol and marijuana, yet it appears that legislators remain far more alarmed about the nation's transit drugs than the time-bomb ticking away in the car next to them whose driver — pilot, taxi or bus driver, teacher, parent or professional health care worker — could be dazed on valium, high on hashish or just shaking from the night before. What kind of message do we send, when one intoxicated is soundly condemned while another is written off as youthful exuberance or some sort of quasi-legitimate rite of passage? Even with the total eradication of heroin, cocaine, alcohol and marijuana, there will always be a percentage of people who will find a way "to feel better," some to the point of intoxication. We need to inform and hope healthy choices will be made. All professionals need to get out of the isolation mode, work as a team for the sake of people. Safety and security start with knowledge. We have an intoxication problem, not a drug problem.

The writer is a certified chemical dependency practitioner at Al Mawel, the National Centre for Psychological and Educational Consultation. She contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Rising crime wave adds to Iraq's problems

By Peter Gregson

Reuters

BAGHDAD — Out of the blazing heat of a Baghdad lunchtime, three young men walked into a gold merchant's shop in the capital's bustling Karrada district recently.

One pulled a gun, shot the owner dead and the three grabbed all the jewellery on display before escaping through streets jammed with traffic.

It was the most serious incident yet in a growing crime wave that is adding to Iraq's post-Gulf war social and economic woes, and which President Saddam Hussein has just publicly acknowledged for the first time.

In some world cities, the murder of a gold merchant may not have attracted much attention. But in Iraq, traditionally a land of little crime and where a large and powerful security apparatus has operated for years, it was an aberration meriting splash treatment in the national press. Police said they had quickly caught two of the three suspects.

Mr. Saddam told a meeting of his ruling Baath Party this month that there had been a breakdown of law and order in some parts of the country since the Gulf war. With its economy weakening daily under the grip of a 13-month old U.N. trade embargo, the effects of Iraq's seizure of Kuwait and subsequent expulsion are spreading through society like a shock wave.

Begging was little known until recently in a country where ample staple food for all was imported and sold at heavily-subsidised prices.

But food supplies are drying up, prices have rocketed and beggars, often young mothers clutching infants, are now frequent sight on the streets of Baghdad.

Food rations at subsidised prices now meet only about a third of average consumption, forcing hungry people to buy at inflated prices few can afford.

With unemployment rising, burglary and car theft are rampant. Everyone has a tale to tell about crime. "You know Youssef, the driver," another driver whined. Saïem said, "Ten thousand dinars (\$10,000), at the official rate, gone from his car yesterday."

Asked to park down a side-street in one area of town, he refused, saying: "Too many Ali Babas" — a reference to the robber leader and his 40 thieves in the tales of the Arabian nights.

Many Iraqis, distrustful of banks, keep gold, jewellery and cash at home, particularly old pre-Gulf war notes which are less likely to be forged.

New 25, 50 and 100 dinar bills were issued after the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait as prices started to rise. But there has been a large number of forgeries and every establishment with a cash register has a long list of the serial numbers of known fakes.

Stolen cars are often driven over the border to Iran or Turkey, where they are sold for U.S. dollars — the currency of a burgeoning black market that authorities seem powerless to control despite a call by Mr. Saddam to stamp out "the profiteers and

criminals who are taking advantage of the poor and needy."

Iraq has some of the toughest penalties for crime in the world, with thieves facing life imprisonment or occasionally the death sentence.

Recently, Iraq's Supreme Court discussed whether to drop prosecutions of home owners who shoot dead burglars within their premises.

But the penalties seem to have little effect. "The amount of work is huge. We're not used to dealing with 20 to 30 burglaries a night," said a police officer working in just one district of this sprawling city of five million people.

Some Baghdad residents say economic necessity is not the only cause of the growing crime wave. They say there has been a general decline in standards of behaviour since the systematic sacking of Kuwait last year and the appearance of truckloads of looted goods and cars in Baghdad.

One luggage shop off the city's Rashid shopping street still has a large display of brightly-coloured shoulder bags prominently bearing the words "I love Kuwait."

Others say a major factor is the hopeless future faced by growing numbers of young men in their 20s and 30s. Discharged from the military, where many have spent most of the past 11 years fighting in one war or another, they have no qualifications, no money and no prospect of work.

Prince Saddamuddin Aga Khan, the man in charge of the post-Gulf war relief effort, linked rising crime to falling living standards.

Amnesty assails Israeli military courts

AMNESTY International has strongly criticised Israel's military justice system in the occupied territories, saying that the "odds are stacked against" Palestinian civilians having fair trials. Flaws in the system include the routine torture or ill-treatment of suspects during interrogation, says Amnesty International (AI).

In a newly published report, the human rights organisation says that it has serious concerns about the entire legal process, from the time a suspect is arrested to when the case is closed, under which thousands of Palestinians are tried each year.

A key criticism is the long period for which suspects are held incommunicado after being detained. They can be held for up to 18 days without being brought before a judge, and their lawyers and relatives are frequently not permitted to see them for much longer periods. This, says AI, "creates conditions for both arbitrary arrest and torture or ill-treatment."

In Israel and the occupied territories, says the report, "there is clearly a pattern of torture or ill-treatment," noting that "detainees are particularly vulnerable to

such treatment when they are cut off from the outside world."

In order to extract information or confessions, or simply as a means of punishment, detainees are "systematically hooded with dirty sacks and deprived of food or sleep, usually by being shackled in painful positions, while held in solitary confinement," says AI. "They are also frequently beaten all over their bodies, including their genitals, and held in rooms so small and dark detainees call them 'coffins' or ones so cold they are called 'refrigerators.'" CAABU Bulletin

Jordan, Yemen reach agreement

(Continued from page 1)

Prime Minister Taher Masri and the Yemeni side, headed by Mr. Attas, stressed the importance of intensifying efforts to overcome the negative impacts caused by the Gulf crisis. Both prime ministers said that the meetings took place in a brotherly atmosphere, dominated by mutual understanding.

In a press statement, Mr. Masri said at the end of the meeting he hoped the results of this cooperation would transcend routine dealings. He voiced hope that the agreement would serve as a start-

ing point on the path of achieving economic integration between both countries.

Mr. Masri stressed that good intentions will eventually bolster such cooperation. He added that political coordination between the leaderships of both countries have contributed to formulating a joint political vision and a unified stand.

Mr. Attas said he was happy with the results of the meetings, and expressed satisfaction with the efforts made during the talks. He noted that these efforts were aimed to find the best means to bolster bilateral cooperation.

Rafsanjani slams Bush

(Continued from page 1)

resolution repealed. He would not say if a majority was assured.

Israeli President Chaim Herzog on Tuesday praised Mr. Bush's remarks, saying they had "great historical significance not only for Israel, but for all the Jewish people."

Mr. Herzog suggested Tuesday that the chances of armistice were good, partly because the United Nations wants to play a role in the Middle East peace process.

"They understand in the United Nations that they cannot be a factor in everything concerning the Middle East as long as this decision still exists," Mr. Herzog said on Israel army radio.

Mr. Bush's speech, the mass-circulation Yedioth Ahronoth was critical, saying it was not a good-will gesture, but another move against Israel.

"Considering the timing, we should certainly suspect that the American initiative will lead to an attempt to upgrade the U.N. representation in a regional peace conference meaning additional pressures on Israel," Yedioth said.

On Monday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said he was "delighted" by President Bush's call to repeal the resolution.

He said he hoped it will improve chilly U.S.-Israel relations. "Our interest and I think, the U.S. interest, is to have good relations," Mr. Shamir told reporters.

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Turmoil continues to reign within women's federation as election nears

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After over one year of disputes and court cases pertaining to the legacy of the Jordanian Women's Federation (JWF) elections in August 1990, the group has set a new date for national elections.

As many women activists brace themselves for the scheduled Oct. 18 national elections, at least one group has said that they will boycott the polls.

The Islamic Women's Group, headed by interim Executive Committee members Mahdiah Zmelie and Saad Saqaa, announced their boycott of the elections on the ground that the elections are not "likely to be representative." They charged that the interim committee headed by Silham Al Kassem was "unorganised and inefficient."

But the eight municipal councils in the Kingdom will have been elected by the end of the day today and the new interim committee will have kept its word of holding elections within a three- to six-month "re-organisation" period.

Unlike the last elections, in which only 60 women participated, over 400 elected representatives will choose the remaining 9 members of the National Executive Committee.

Along with the additional eight municipal council presidents, the nine elected women will embark on the task to lead the first democratically elected Women's Federation Executive Committee into a more politically free Jordan.

The federation has only been tinged by politics up till now and a women's dialogue as such on the role of women in a sphere beyond the social one has hardly been touched by previous executive committees.

While many women activists have been involved not only politically but also economically in the federation, the previous structure of the federation gave them no role and only after the democratisation of Jordan, in the post Nov. 1989 era, have they been given an active role in the federation.

While in the last two years Islamic women's groups have entered the Federations arena as a

force to be reckoned with, it has been more leftist women who have traditionally challenged the previously conservative status quo.

Last year, faced with a challenge by what the women called a manipulation by Muslim Brotherhood-backed Islamist women, the traditionalists and leftists and pan-Arab women united as one front to avoid the transformation of what one women activist called the "take-over by the Islamists of the federation."

Federation observers said they believe that the Islamist wing could not muster more than 15 per cent of the vote in the Oct. 18 elections and that rather than suffer an embarrassing defeat, the Islamists would prefer not to run.

"The cooperation between the women of the more 'pro-establishment' group and the left, pan-Arab and liberal groups will be an issue to watch if the Islamists insist on abstaining as they have said they would," said one long-time independent federation observer.

Some observers believe that

new politically oriented alliances will be drawn if the Islamists participate in the October election.

"The times have changed in Jordan and even the women cannot turn back the clock, they will stand to be heard," said a female attorney who will participate in the elections.

In the meantime, the interim president, Ms. Kassem, has sent out several messages in the local press urging the Islamist ladies to show up for elections. But so far, Ms. Zmelie and Ms. Saqaa have not budged.

The two serve with Ms. Kassem on the second interim committee appointed by the Ministry of Social Development. An interim committee had to be appointed after the Higher Court of Justice ruled that the 1990 elections were null and void in late January of this year.

The court case involved charges over gerrymandering and unequal representation in last year's national elections. Political manipulation pitting Islamic and more secular women against each other was seen as largely the cause for the dispute.

Prince Hassan stresses need for inter-religious dialogue

ISTANBUL — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, in an address to a Christian-Muslim friendship and understanding meeting here, noted that the followers of the great monotheistic faiths pride themselves on the traditions of tolerance, understanding and mutual respect.

A dialogue among the faiths, the Prince said, provides a meaningful opportunity for a much-needed bridgehead to overcome fears and inhibitions and encourage interaction and joint efforts towards a better future.

The Prince said in his address delivered on his behalf by former Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kamel Al Sharif.

The five-day meeting, dialogue for Christian-Muslim Friendship and Understanding, is organised by the Council for the World's Religions.

Following is the text of the address:

It is my pleasure and privilege to address the elite gathering of Muslims and Christians participating in the international inter-religious conference on "Dialogue for Muslim-Christian Friendship and Understanding," held in Istanbul — a city which served as the capital of great Christian and Muslim empires — through gracious invitation of the Council for the World's Religions.

The questions raised by the convenors of the conference are both apt and timely. While wishing you every success, I regret not being able to participate due to previous commitments.

As members of an interdependent international community, we value the need for dialogue. It brings people together for an exchange of views and mutual consultation. Such need is becoming increasingly pressing in an age of informational explosion and knowledge expansion. The mass media has assumed unprecedented power that has transformed the world into a small global village.

As followers of the great monotheistic faiths we pride ourselves on the traditions of tolerance, understanding and mutual respect. A dialogue provides a meaningful opportunity for a much-needed bridgehead to overcome fears and inhibitions, and encourage interaction and joint efforts towards a better future.

Islam's call for dialogue is clear: In the Holy Quran, Allah (almighty God) orders the believer to: "Call unto the way of the creator with wisdom and fair exhortation, and argue with them in the kindest manner." (The Bees 16:125).

In this genuine Muslim spirit, and within our long-established Jordanian tradition of moderation and centrist approach, we have conducted — since 1984 — a three-stream interreligious dialogue with the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (the Vatican), the Independent Commission of Christian-Muslim Relations in the United Kingdom, and the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate at Chambéry (Switzerland). Eight meetings have been held over the past seven years, covering a wide spectrum of topics.

I am sure that the papers presented to this learned gathering, and your discussions and analysis, will be a valuable addition to this positioning process of dialogue to highlight mutual interests and shared values.

Yemeni prime minister tours industrial plants, praises Jordan's efforts

SALT (Petra) — On the third day of his stay in Jordan, Yemen's prime minister, Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, Tuesday toured a number of Jordanian institutions and expressed hope that his country and Jordan would embark on further joint ventures to promote trade, economic, scientific and industrial cooperation.

Speaking during a visit to the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company (APMC) in Salt, Mr. Attas commended the high quality of Jordanian industrial and pharmaceutical products and paid tribute to the Jordanian industrialists' efforts.

The Yemeni premier acquainted himself with the types of pharmaceutical products which are marketed here and abroad. Accompanied by members of the Yemeni delegation who took part in the Joint Jordanian-Yemeni Higher Committee meeting as well as Jordanian officials, Mr. Attas said that the meeting

reflected the strong brotherly ties between the Yemeni and Jordanian people.

He said that Yemeni-Jordanian cooperation in a number of fields serves as a model for other Arab countries.

The plant manager, Dr. Maan Shugair, gave details about the various types of medicines and the amounts that are exported to Arab and foreign countries.

According to Dr. Shugair, the APMC, which was founded in the early 1960s, has so far sold JD 33.5 million worth of pharmaceutical products to other countries.

Mr. Attas and his delegation visited the Higher Council for Science and Technology in Amman and met its secretary general, Abdullah Touqan, as well as Dr. Hani Al Mulqi, president of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

Both Dr. Mulqi and Dr. Tou-

qan briefed the distinguished guests on their department's activities and services to the local community. The RSS is currently carrying out joint Yemeni-Jordanian projects in Yemen.

Earlier, the Yemeni delegation visited the Sahab Industrial City where they inspected carpet and ceramics plants. Dr. Fayed Shheimat, the director general of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC), briefed the Yemeni delegation on the Industrial City and said it houses 222 factories, 30 of which were owned and operated by non-Jordanian Arab and foreign institutions and investors. He said that the Industrial City employs 6,200 workers, most of whom are from Jordan.

Later Tuesday, Mr. Attas and his delegation left Amman for home. They were seen off by Prime Minister Taher Masri, cabinet members and other Jordanian officials.

The Housing Crisis

Government and the private sector: A continual process of finger pointing

This is the last in a series of articles that seek to examine the current housing crisis in Jordan. This article addresses the role of the private sector and its relationship to the government.

By Nidal M. Ibrahim
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government, overwhelmed and unable to deal with the housing crisis, continually points to the private sector, saying that a national effort involving both entities will be necessary to address the problem.

But the private sector, finding itself in a building boom and not short of business, seems to be struggling off the idea, leaving the government to go it alone.

"We want to release some projects to the private sector," said Nidal Qaqish, project manager for low cost housing with the Urban Development Department (UDD). "We want them to help."

Preliminary government estimates indicate that Jordan will need about 32,000 housing units to accommodate the mass influx of returnees.

Further exacerbating the problem is that many of the expatriates are returning to the Kingdom having lost most of their possessions and savings in Kuwait and other Gulf states. Therefore, what is needed to address their needs is low cost housing, Mr. Qaqish said.

The UDD builds an average of 1,000 low cost housing units per year, Mr. Qaqish said. He estimates that the number will

be doubled this year to help accommodate the refugees. At most, he said, the department would be able to build between 3,000 and 4,000 units per year if financing were available.

"The private sector as a whole is not really sharing in low cost housing projects," said Ibrahim Daher, manager of the Low Cost Housing Department at the Housing Bank.

One of the problems for the private sector is that building low cost housing units is simply not as profitable as serving the needs of the upper and middle segments of the market, said Mohammad Al Kilani, vice president of the Jordan Association of Housing Projects, which represents about 35 major builders in the Kingdom.

"The most important problem is that in low cost apartments the buyer cannot pay more than JD 62 to JD 80 per month," he said. "Of course, I cannot sell this apartment at these prices."

Furthermore, he said, it is unreasonable to expect builders to provide favourable terms to prospective buyers by offering them a payment schedule spread out over a couple of years.

"These people cannot pay cash and I cannot, of course, get my money over 30 years," he said.

Manara, a low cost housing project in south Amman, is typical of UDD projects. A five-year project designed to build units while upgrading some existing ones, Manara was financed through grants and loans from different local,

national and international institutions.

Each housing unit costs the UDD an average of JD 7,500 to build, Mr. Qaqish said. The unit is then sold to a buyer for between JD 6,000 and JD 7,000.

The difference between the construction and selling price is made up through the sale, at market prices, of commercial shops in the centre of the project.

The units usually include nothing more than one room, a kitchen, a bathroom and some surrounding land on which to build additions in the future.

"We work on the strategy that if people have land to build upon, they will find financing to do so," Mr. Qaqish said. "It's very successful."

Mr. Qaqish added that low cost housing should not exceed JD 10,000, a figure which most builders are unable to meet.

Because of customs duties imposed on items such as cement and steel, the price of building materials makes it difficult for construction companies to effectively build low cost housing, Mr. Kilani said.

Also, the price of land in the Amman area — where most returnees are settling, according to studies — is prohibitive.

"The most important problem about this sector is that we need low cost land and low cost land is mostly (to be found) outside the municipality of Amman," Mr. Kilani said.

In addition, building on land in rural areas is not feasible at this time because there is no infrastructure in place to sup-

port housing developments, he said.

Projects outside the Amman area "need roads and water and electricity and these things we cannot support," Mr. Kilani said. "We need the support of government."

The association has lobbied the government for the last three years in an effort to have their problems addressed, he said. While the government lends a sympathetic ear to builders' problems, they have failed to take constructive steps, Mr. Kilani said.

"Really (the government) is planning very well but they put the points on paper and nobody follows up anything," he said.

Despite the criticism the government and private sector continuously level at each other, some cooperation in addressing the issue is taking place.

"(The private sector) is starting (to address the problem) but it is not happening as we wish," said Mr. Qaqish, of the UDD. "We want the private sector, in fact, to have more of a role."

For its part, the private sector is willing to help the government but it will not do so unless there is some cooperation, Mr. Kilani said.

"If they give us the land and the conditions which I mentioned with good prices, not market prices of course, and give (us) other (forms of) support, we can go to these sectors and we can take a minimum profit," he said.

Conference addressing Jordan's population growth begins

By Maha Adad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in cooperation with the National Population Commission, started a conference Tuesday entitled "Population and Basic Needs of Jordan" in order to best solve the problems of the rapid increase in population in Jordan as a result of the influx of immigrants following the outbreak of the Gulf crisis.

The conference is taking place at the Plaza Hotel, with 150 participants representing all government areas, the private sector and some international organisations. The conference is expected to make basic recommendations and issue policy guidelines to cover population needs from 1991 until 2005, when Jordan's population is estimated to be approximately double in size.

In the opening speech, Dr. Ali D. Attiga, the regional representative for UNDP, said that "population in Jordan, now at 3,571,000 is expected to reach 5,670,000 by the year 2005. He added that the conference is taking place at a time when Jordan is facing economic and social challenges

which all require "intensive, urgent and immediate action."

"There is imbalance between natural resources and population needs. This is a problem that increased after the rise in the number of immigrants, especially from Kuwait and other Gulf countries, who are estimated to be 300,000 in number," Dr. Attiga said.

Mohammad Al Akel, the secretary general of the National Population Commission and the presenter of one of the working papers, said that action must be taken to limit the population growth rate. "We must increase the standard of living of the population and also emphasize the need for birth spacing, which is a programme under review by the government," Dr. Al Akel said.

The conference was opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma who referred to the wars of 1948, 1967 and 1991, which witnessed huge influxes of refugees converging on Jordan from Palestine and Kuwait. The influx of people has caused a severe pressure on Jordan's various services, creating new socio-economic difficulties like unemployment and sharply rais-

ing the cost of living in the Kingdom, the Princess said.

The difficult circumstances which Jordan has faced over the past several years helped the Jordanian people to improvise and to cope with new situations, the Princess said.

Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Dughlani commended the efforts of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) for following research and study in the field of population activities in the past decade. The conference, the minister said, is being held at a crucial time when Jordan is witnessing changes bound to leave their impact on its future development and on people's daily lives.

The minister reviewed the activities of the National Population Commission, which among other things include a national programme for birth spacing and utilising the media to spread awareness among members of the public concerning population issues.

The working papers to be presented in the three-day conference cover the areas of the population's basic needs, water, food, housing, the health of mother and child and work opportunities.

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Bush's missing line

U.S. President George Bush's call on the U.N. General Assembly Monday to repeal the 1975 U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism is not the first attempt to remove that decision from customary international law nor would it be the last. Ever since that resolution was adopted in 1975, Israel and the 35 countries that voted against it, have been working feverishly to rescind it and obliterate any reference to it. The reason for this panic is obvious: There is considerable truth and validity in the proposition that Zionism, as applied and practised, is tantamount to racism in the sense that it distinguishes between people on the basis of religion and political creed when all international norms and standards call for the elimination of all discrimination on the basis of religion, ethnic background, political thought, sex or race. This principle of non-discrimination is well enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and all the following international human rights instruments that aimed to codify the ideals of the declaration, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. To repeal the resolution now without calling on Israel to remove the discriminatory features of Zionism would be like rewriting the international norms and standards on human rights. There is little doubt that Israel is established on the edifice of Zionist ideals and policies which in turn discriminate openly between Jew and gentile in every conceivable way. The political implications of Zionism have included the displacement of the indigenous people of Palestine replacing them with Jews from all corners of the world. So, instead of calling for the removal of U.N. resolution 3379 from the annals of history, the concerned international community should direct its attention to correcting the negative characteristics of Zionism in order to bring it in line with U.N. standards and principles. Otherwise, President Bush's latest call to repeal that resolution would be tantamount to putting the cart before the horse.

So a trade off could still be worked out between the cancellation of the resolution, which is a big thorn in the side of Israel and the rectification of the negative aspects of applied Zionism, especially in its social and political ramifications. There is nothing that would satisfy the Arab World and the 72 countries that voted in favour of that resolution than to have it abrogated by reversing the reasons for its adoption in the first place. The Israelis have stayed away from signing and ratifying so many U.N. treaties and conventions on human rights because deep in their hearts they know very well that these Zionist ideals and practices would fall terribly short of these instruments. The minute Israel is in a position to ratify such internationally accepted bodies of international law, the international community will be more than happy to repeal the 1975 resolution. Anything short of that would be tantamount to succumbing to Israel's blackmail for no good reason at all.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAY Arabic daily Tuesday discussed a meeting by foreign ministers of Arab countries directly involved in the Palestine question and said that their meeting in New York Wednesday was of paramount importance at this juncture in view of the fast moving developments in the Middle East and the coming peace conference. The paper said that coordination of stands among these countries and cooperation with the PLO in this matter: can help formulate a unified Arab position which will have a greater effect on the outcome of the peace process. The paper said it would be advisable for the Arab countries to set up a committee of experts in different specialisations to ensure continued coordination in political matters which can help the decision-makers in dealing with any eventuality. The peace process is one of the greatest challenges facing the Arab World and its leaders, and it requires the mobilisation of all expertise in order for the Arab Nation to regain usurped rights at the coming negotiations, the paper noted. Israel, said the paper, is mobilising all its forces inside and outside the occupied Palestinian land in order to achieve its objectives within or outside the projected peace conference. The paper said it is therefore incumbent upon the Arab foreign ministers meeting in New York to come up with a proper machinery to ensure successful Arab plans at the peace conference.

NOW that the Palestine president has promised to give support to the peace process and to remove all obstacles in the path of peace, it is incoercible to believe that there can be major elements that can obstruct the U.S.-sponsored plan on the Arab side, said Sawt Al Shaab daily Tuesday. The paper said that the Palestinians, through their representatives at the Palestine National Council, have voiced their backing to the ongoing peace process spearheaded by President Bush. The Palestine president has clearly and openly announced his desire to put all his weight behind the American plan with the purpose of reaching a just and durable peace based on the international legitimacy, the paper added. What is left now is to see the Bush administration practically exercising pressure on Israel to force it to go to the peace conference and to respect the international legitimacy and the U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict, said the paper. The Palestine president is placing the world community face to face with its responsibility towards peace and towards forcing the aggressors to comply with the will of the United Nations and its resolutions, the paper added. By accepting the Bush peace plan and pledging to support all efforts for a peace conference, said the paper, Yasser Arafat has regained his position within the heads of the frontline states willing to participate in the peace parley. The paper said the Arabs are now called on to coordinate their position with that of Palestine towards reaching a unified stand for the coming peace negotiations.

Economic Forum

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

Long slow recovery on the way

WALKING along a 3-kilometre street in Amman last Sunday, I counted twenty four building sites for houses barely started and ten other housing units being extended or nearing completion. The following day, I noticed 12 other starts crammed along one kilometre stretch on another street. A friend volunteered to tell me that somebody had informed him that around six thousand building permits in the Amman area alone were issued recently. Such building starts are now a common feature in the Amman area and probably in most other urban centres.

Building activity, especially as measured by building starts, is an important indicator because it gauges the present level of economic activity and can foretell the future direction of the economy. In advanced economies, data on building starts is compiled instantly and released very early to enable dealers, policymakers and analysts to take timely decisions.

To my mind, the present spurt in housing activity in Jordan must be symptomatic of an economic upswing. The economy will successfully crawl out of the very last stage of recession into a recovery which will penetrate all economic sectors in the course of no more than one year. If such a recovery is rightly heralded by the present surge in property prices and the above-mentioned building pickup, it will be most erroneous to assume that the boom of the late seventies and early eighties will be replicated. That boom was some sort of a historical economic coincidence

which is almost impossible to reproduce. What we are anticipating is a shift in the business cycle that will produce a normal economic expansion that will advance very slowly but will be long indeed.

The figure of six thousand building permits is not over-optimistic in my view and can therefore serve as a basis for analysis. A building permit differs from the registration of a company with a capital of, say, one million dinars. The registration of this company itself does not mean that a million dinars will necessarily be spent out or invested. By contrast, issuing a building permit means that the respective building will be erected and, most probably, sooner rather than later and normally in the course of one to two years.

One can safely assume that each permit entails setting up a building that costs, on average, JD 50,000 or a total of JD 300 million for the whole lot. A very tiny part of this amount will come from bank loans and the remainder will be financed from savings because commercial banks do not finance housing activities except very fractionally.

According to (keynesian) multiplier analysis, savings constitute a leakage from the system that impedes income-generation (because you earn an income only if and when somebody else spends his money). Now the fact that most of the JD 300 million will be financed from those past leakages, namely savings (not

from bank loans), will magnify the positive effects of releasing these savings again into the income stream. (Bank funds are bound anyway to be lent to, and spent by, somebody even if they are not lent to builders).

Over a number of years, say five years from now, spending JD 300 million on building will generate additional incomes of around JD 1,000 million. To us, these incomes will provide the blood necessary to ignite recovery in the near future and to help in sustaining it afterwards. We estimate that Jordan will need 50,000 residential units over the next five years so that expenditure on building units will be sustained at high levels throughout this period. A building permit may cover an average of four housing units, implying that at least another six thousand permits are in the pipeline and with them extra spending of JD 300 million which will generate another JD 1,000 million of potential income.

Investment, that is initial spending, of JD 600 million is capable of fuelling and sustaining a long economic expansion. And the figures in the analysis above, especially with regard to the average cost corresponding to each building permit (JD 50,000), are very conservative. More encouraging results will be obtained from more liberal ones. But, of course, the above scenario implicitly assumes the prevalence of political stability in the area. I, for one, am ready to bet on ruling out political upheavals throughout the next five years and stick to the imminent recovery hypothesis.

Crux of loan feud: Mistrust and Israeli anxiety

By Thomas L. Friedman
New York Times Service

DAMASCUS — The struggle between the Bush administration and Israel over the question of Israeli housing-loan guarantees is such an explosive and illuminating story because it brings together all of the underlying often unspoken anxieties, tensions and contradictions in the relationship between America and Israel.

This struggle is about everything other than \$10 billion in loan guarantees.

It is about Israel's anxiety over America's changing role in the world; it is about conflicting instincts within the Bush administration over how to make peace in the Middle East; it is about the mutual mistrust between Israelis and President George Bush; and it is about Israel's inability to face up to its own fateful choices regarding the future of the occupied territories.

At its broadest level, one of the deepest anxieties animating the Israelis in this struggle is their

intuitive sense that now that the United States has become the world's only superpower; that it is moving, and will continue to move, from Israel's patron in global affairs to a more neutral umpire, dispassionately mediating between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

It was revealing, to note that one of the written assurances that the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir contemplated requesting of Secretary of State James Baker before Israel would go to a peace conference was some sort of general commitment from the United States to be sympathetic to Israel at the conference, because Israel would have no other friends there.

The Israelis understand that without the backdrop of U.S.-Soviet competition, America's natural inclination to side with Israel, just because Moscow was siding with the Arabs, is greatly diminished.

Also, the loan-guarantee issue has brought to the center of Israeli politics a question that the country's leaders have been trying to avoid since they cap-

tured the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967: What to do with these territories?

For 24 years, successive U.S. administrations have opposed Israeli settlement-building in the occupied territories. They have called settlements everything from "illegal" to an "obstacle to peace." But one thing no administration has ever done is to act on its principles and tell the Israelis that unless they curb their settlement-building the United States will limit economic assistance.

NEWS ANALYSIS

It is precisely because no U.S. administration would ever do that that the Israelis have been able to have it all ways: Settlements and American aid and no confrontations with Washington.

What Mr. Bush has decided is that it is finally time for the United States to put some teeth into its own principles. The president has told the Israelis that they will not get their loan guarantees now without some severe restrictions on their settlement activities

in the occupied territories.

The administration is hoping to avoid a confrontation on this issue by getting the Israelis to postpone their loan request until a peace conference starts between Israel and the Arab states, in the hope that the administration can then work a deal in which Israel would curb its settlements in return for some Arab concessions and Washington would be spared having to use its own economic stick.

This has put American Jewish leaders in a difficult position. To stand with the president is to appear ready to sacrifice housing for Russian immigrants over a point of principle. But to stand with Israel is to risk making the question of aid to the Jewish state a subject for a national debate in the United States, which makes many Jewish Americans uncomfortable.

Many Israelis and many American Jews who support what Mr. Bush is doing believe he made one major mistake in deciding to draw the line on the question of housing-loan guarantees for Soviet immigrants rather than on

what Israel's de facto annexation of the West Bank is doing to the country.

"What Bush should have done," said an Israeli political theorist, Yaron Ezrahi, "is frame the issue like this: 'The whole rationale for Israel, the whole reason we Americans and Jews around the world support it, is because it is conceived as a democratic state where a Jewish majority can thrive and achieve its full potential.'"

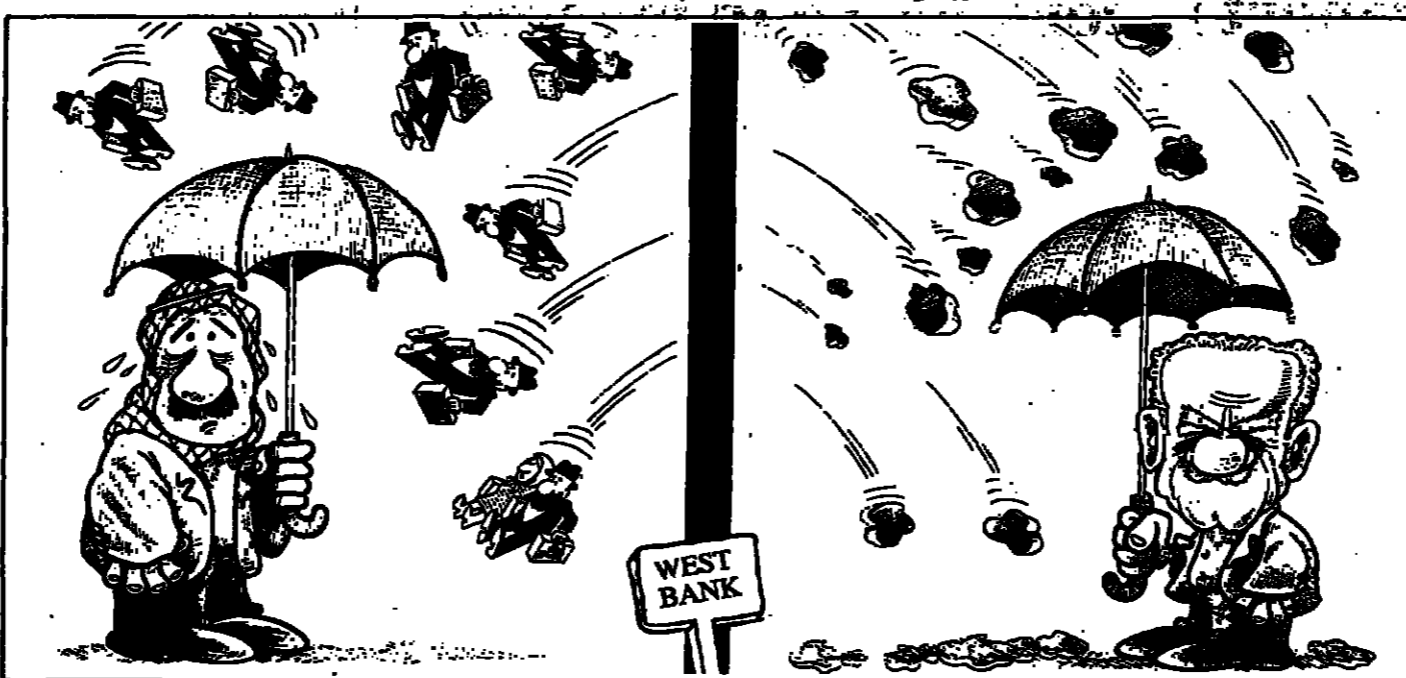
"How can any friend of Israel, therefore, stand by the watch as Israel engages in a settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — home to 1.7 million Palestinians — which can only turn Israel into a binational state with a permanent civil war between Arabs and Jews and with a government that can only control the Palestinians by repressive means?" Mr. Shamir has no answer to that.

That Mr. Bush or Secretary Baker did not make such an argument derives in part from the fact that neither man has much emotional bond with Israel. That does not mean they are intrin-

cally hostile, as some Israeli officials recently charged. It does mean, though, that they insist on dealing with Israel as just another pragmatic foreign policy question.

But Israelis are a people that dwell alone. If someone does not love them, they think they hate them. There is no emotive middle ground for them, although the Bush administration's whole approach to peace-making is based almost entirely on terms dictated by Mr. Shamir, the Israeli nevertheless sees the Bush administration as hostile. The reason, said one former State Department official, is "the head heart split."

"When I think your heart is not in the right place, it doesn't matter where your head is or what you're saying," he said. "It is never going to be enough. If I know where your heart is, then I'm not going to worry about the details so much. American Jews just don't believe that this administration's heart is in the right place. They always want to wrangle over the details." — International Herald Tribune.



Baker has extracted concessions but the impossible lies ahead

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

NICOSIA — Six months into his campaign to arrange a Middle East peace conference, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has achieved what once looked impossible.

The trouble is that other impossibilities lie ahead of him and doubts persist that the conference will convene as planned in October.

Mixing constructive ambiguity with the political clout of an unchallenged superpower, Mr. Baker has persuaded Israel, Syria, the Palestinians and the Gulf Arab states to make concessions which went right against the grain of traditional policy.

But on the issue at the centre of the Arab-Israeli conflict since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war — the status of the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights — it is hard to see where peace talks would lead to if they do go ahead.

Over the months of complex negotiations, in which Mr. Baker juggled one demand against another and tried to find a middle way that all sides could accept, the parties to the conflict have given ground on at least seven points.

The Palestinians, who have been campaigning vigorously for an independent state, have

agreed in principle to go to the talks as part of a joint delegation with Jordan.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), suspending temporarily its previous claims, has agreed that PLO members need not be among the Palestinian delegates to the conference. The organisation is also taking a soft line on whether diaspora Palestinians should join the peace talks.

Israel, which for years rejected a multilateral peace conference, eventually came round to the idea, provided the conference met strict conditions which, in the eyes of Arab states, will undermine its effectiveness.

Under Mr. Baker's present proposals, the conference cannot impose solutions and after an opening session it will break up into bilateral talks between Israel and its neighbours. It will meet again only with the approval of all the parties.

The Arab states have given ground on the U.N. and European roles at the conference. They previously wanted U.N. sponsorship on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israeli withdrawal in return for peace with its neighbours.

In return Israel has agreed to allow silent U.N. and European Community observers. But the conference would take place

under U.S. and Soviet auspices and Resolution 242 would have only the significance that each state chooses to give it. It had previously opposed EC participation, accusing the EC of bias towards the Arabs.

The Arab states have dropped an earlier demand for a freeze on new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories before the conference opens. This allows Israel to create new facts on the ground even as the talks are under way.

Syria, once the bastion of opposition to anything other than a full U.N.-sponsored conference, has agreed to go into bilateral talks with Israel, mainly on the Syrian Golan Heights. But it has promised it will not make a separate peace as long as the Palestinian problem is not solved.

The conservative Arab states of the Gulf, grateful to Washington for driving Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in February, have agreed to send an observer to the talks and possibly to join negotiations on regional issues such as water resources.

This amount of progress may look impressive on paper but it could pale to insignificance in comparison with the obstacles to a full settlement of the 43-year-old conflict.

Even before the conference meets, Mr. Baker must finesse

the problem of Palestinian representation.

The PLO is holding out for the right to announce the names of the delegates and to include representatives from East Jerusalem, which Israel annexed immediately after the 1967 war.

Israel says it will not attend unless Jerusalem Arabs are excluded and Palestinian delegates are entirely to its liking.

Arab opponents of the peace conference, such as the PLO dissident groups based in Damascus, say that if the talks lead to anything it would be separate treaties between Israel and its Arab neighbours, similar to the Israeli-Egyptian treaty of 1979.

After that treaty, Israel and Egypt held several years of inconclusive talks on autonomy for Palestinians in the occupied territory. Israel offered to let the Palestinians run day-to-day affairs but refused to withdraw or stop building settlements.

The Israeli government shows no sign of changing tack on the occupied territories. It refuses to withdraw and is pressing ahead with settlements, complicating any land-for-peace deal.

Israeli opposition leader Shimon Peres, unwittingly agreeing with the Arab radicals, said Sunday the peace conference may offer no more than a photo opportunity.

U.S. looks for ways to help make Soviet capitalism work

By Rich Miller
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady returned from the Soviet Union last week convinced that America must seal its victory over communism by helping Moscow make capitalism work.

"What we're seeing is democracy and free-market capitalism in the formative stage," he said on the plane returning from a four-day trip to Moscow and Kiev. "It's very important ... to let them know we want to help."

In the short-term, that means shipping food and medical supplies to the Soviet Union during the winter and working with Moscow to avoid a default on its \$70 billion foreign debt.

In the longer-term, it means the establishment of a job-training programme to teach the Soviet people the rudimentary skills of capitalism, and possibly financial assistance as well.

Mr. Brady, who in the past has often been sceptical about the Soviet Union's commitment to reform, found the country much more open and its policymakers much more realistic last week.

"Perhaps the most important part of our visit is to see the seriousness and openness of your people," he told Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at the start of a one hour and forty-five minute meeting on Thursday.

While there was a recognition that some of the people claiming to be reformers today were die-hard communists less than two months ago, Mr. Brady and other U.S. officials seemed convinced that this time the Soviet Union means business.

"They very much want U.S. involvement," Mr. Brady said. "They want to get started but they don't know how."

He said that the United States stood ready to supply the Soviet Union with emergency food and humanitarian assistance to get it through the winter.

U.S. officials said that Washington would work to make it easier for Moscow to borrow money to buy U.S. food and would consider a Soviet request to speed up some farm credits. But other measures — such as

outright food grants through the "food for peace" programme — might be more difficult.

The Soviet Union has asked the United States and its allies for \$14.7 billion in food aid and credits, a figure that Mr. Brady called "awfully high."

The United States is also playing an active role in behind-the-scenes efforts to help the Soviet Union cope with a short-term credit crunch. A senior U.S. official estimated that Moscow might need from two to five billion dollars over the next four to five months to avert a default on its foreign debt.

"They know and we know they have a problem," said the official, who declined to be identified.

U.S. officials were cagey about just what steps the United States and its industrial allies would take to help the Soviet Union, although they ruled out a debt rescheduling that would give the cash-strapped country more time to pay.

But Mr. Brady and Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the U.S. central bank — the Federal Reserve — came away from their trip to the Soviet Union convinced that the solution to the country's economic ills was not just, or even primarily, Western government money.

"I don't think essentially what these people need is money," Mr. Brady said. "They have a liquidity problem but they're the largest oil producer in the world and one of the largest producers of gold. They have the wherewithal in this country to get the job done."

What the Soviet Union lacks, in Mr. Brady's view, are the basic skills that make capitalism work. That's everything from accountants to marketing specialists.

Mr. Brady proposed a "professional peace corps" that would marshal together experts from U.S. business schools and the U.S. business community to teach the Soviet people what it takes to run a successful market economy.

U.S. officials recognise, nevertheless, that the country will need financial assistance in the years ahead to make the transition from communism to capitalism.

Financial Markets

In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 23/9/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date 24/9/91
Sterling Pound	1.7435	1.6913
Deutsche Mark	1.6731	1.6727
Swiss Franc	1.4590	1.4577
French Franc	5.7020	5.7125
Japanese Yen	132.74	132.97
European Currency Unit	1.2235	1.2211

USD Per STD

European Opening 9:30 a.m. GMT

European Closing 4:30 p.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.50	5.50	5.60	5.81
Sterling Pound	10.31	10.12	10.06	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.12	9.25	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.00	8.06	7.81
French Franc	9.18	9.31	9.37	9.34
Japanese Yen	6.87	6.46	6.18	5.93
European Currency Unit	9.81	9.81	9.81	9.84

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	351.60	6.80	Silver	4.23	.095

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.686	.688
Sterling Pound	1.1942	1.2002
Deutsche Mark	.4099	.4119
Swiss Franc	.4702	.4726
French Franc	.1203	.1209
Japanese Yen	.5158	.5184
Dutch Guilder	.3637	.3655
Swedish Krona	.1124	.1130
Italian Lira	.0548	.0551
Belgian Franc	.01987	.01997

For 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7650	1.7700
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0775
Saudi Riyal	.1824	.1834
Kuwaiti Dinar		
Qatari Riyal	.1859	.1870
Egyptian Pound	.2000	.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7700	1.7700
UAE Dirham	.1859	.1870
Greek Drachma	.3650	.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4600	1.4700

CAN Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	22/9/91	Close	23/9/91	Close
All-Share	118.16		119.31	
Banking Sector	99.12		99.95	
Insurance Sector	120.29		120.49	
Industry Sector	146.97		148.89	
Services Sector	126.94		126.77	

December 31, 1991 - 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7361/77	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1341/46	Canadian dollar
	1.6763/70	Deutschemarks
	1.8860/70	Dutch guilders
	1.4610/20	Swiss francs
	34.54/58	Belgian francs
	5.7125/75	French francs
	1254/1255	Italian lire
	132.85/95	Japanese yen
	6.1100/50	Swedish crowns
	6.5600/50	Norwegian crowns
	5.4750/4800	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	351.20/351.70	U.S. dollars

Shipping expert sees growing shortage of competent seafarers

NICOSIA (R) — World shipping will face a growing shortage of competent seafarers at a time when safety requirements are becoming more stringent, a leading shipping expert said Monday.

Juan Kelly, president of the International Shipping Federation, told an international shipping conference in Cyprus the industry needed 40,000 new officers a year but current levels of recruitment and training produced only 15,000 a year.

"Employers are caught between the pressure to improve standards on the one hand, and a shortage of qualified seafarers on the other, rather like seeds of corn between two grinding wheels," he said.

More than 1,000 participants from 30 countries are taking part in the Maritime Cyprus '91 conference, the second of its kind to be held on the island.

Organisers said the conference would boost Cyprus's role as a maritime centre and offer participants the opportunity to discuss developments in the shipping industry in the 1990s.

The Cyprus registry totals some 21 million tonnes. It ranks seventh in the world in terms of

tonnage and is the third largest international registry.

Over the past few years, the island has attracted about 70 ship-management companies.

"This makes Limassol the leading centre in third-party ship-management in the world," Communications Minister Pavlos Savvides told participants.

He and President George Vassiliou said the government was determined to continue to improve services and infrastructure in order to keep abreast of developments in international shipping.

Plans include the modernisation of shipping legislation and the reorganisation and strengthening of the department of merchant shipping.

Mr. Vassiliou said the shipping industry was not ready to meet increasing needs as the world economy grows in the 1990s, spurred on by changes in central and eastern Europe.

He said that as a result of the crisis in the 1980s there has been a dramatic drop in the number of new ships built at a time when the shipping industry, seeking to meet increasing demand, had postponed the scrapping of ships.

Egypt to get \$800 m for environmental and touristic projects

CAIRO (R) — The World Bank has agreed to give Egypt \$600 million for environmental projects, an Egyptian minister was quoted as saying Monday.

The money will be spent on preserving areas in the Red Sea and Sinai Peninsula, Al Ahram newspaper quoted Tourism Minister Fouad Sultan as saying in its first Tuesday edition.

Mr. Sultan said the bank has allocated another \$200 million to tourism development projects in Egypt.

In June, the World Bank approved \$524 million of loans to Egypt after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed a set of tough economic reforms for Egypt.

An IMF team arrived in Cairo last week to see how the plan was going. Egyptian and Western economists say monetary reforms have gone well but public sector reform has become bogged down in political sensitivities.

British charity Oxfam raises record \$120 m

LONDON (R) — British-based charity Oxfam has raised a record \$70 million (\$120 million) last year despite the economic recession.

The record donations shattered the myth that the British public was suffering from "compassion fatigue" after a string of international disasters, said charity spokeswoman Mary Cherry.

The total, raised in the year to April 30, was up \$7 million (\$12 million) on the previous year.

"The dramatic increase in 1990/91 reflects the generous public response to a catalogue of world emergencies and disasters from famine in Africa to the cyclone in Bangladesh and the consequences of the Gulf crisis," said an Oxfam spokesman.

Foreign holdings of U.S. real estate quadrupled in 1980s

WASHINGTON (AP) — A surge in buying by Japanese investors quadrupled foreign ownership of U.S. commercial real estate in the 1980s to \$35.8 billion — about two per cent of such property, a government agency has reported.

At the end of the 1980s, the Japanese owned more U.S. commercial real estate than all Europeans, whose holdings totalled \$11.3 billion, the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) said.

Based on the GAO figures, commercial land and buildings in the United States were worth a total of \$1.5 trillion.

Japan's share rose from \$305 million in 1981 to \$14.3 billion in 1989, said the GAO, the accounting arm of Congress. From 1986 to 1987 alone, Japanese holdings doubled from \$2.9 billion to \$6.1 billion, surpassing British holdings for the first time.

"By 1987 Japanese investors also accounted for the greatest share of investment ... in new enterprises acquired or established," the agency said.

There were high concentrations of purchases in Hawaii, California and New York.

The real estate market has declined since 1989. And the report

said, "Japanese investment has decreased because of growing U.S. public hostility."

It cited industry analysts who said public protests over Japanese investment in Rockefeller Centre in New York prompted Japanese buyers not to bid on the Sears Tower in Chicago, the world's tallest building.

According to the GAO report, Britain remained the second largest holder of U.S. commercial real estate in 1989, with property worth \$5.2 billion. Canada was third with \$3.9 billion, followed by the Netherlands, \$3.4 billion and Germany, \$1.2 billion.

Fiat announces temporary layoffs for 50,000

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Italy's auto giant Fiat has announced plans to lay off 50,000 workers for one week next month to cut down its car production.

The temporary layoffs of nearly half of Fiat's 115,000 work force, from Oct. 28 through Nov. 3, will reduce production by 30,000 cars.

Fiat, which is owned by the Agnelli family, has closed some manufacturing facilities for one week every month since February in response to the sluggish demand in the European car market and the loss of market shares in its Italian home market.

Analysts estimated that Fiat has reduced its production by about 220,000 cars so far this year.

Fiat officials emphasised that the auto division of the group does not plan any structural reduction in the capacity because it believes that the car market will pick up again in 1992-93.

Self-employed Japanese fail to report record \$6.1b in income

TOKYO (AP) — Self-employed individuals failed to report a record \$6.1 billion in taxable income in fiscal 1989, the national tax agency has said.

The worst offenders for the seventh consecutive year were owners of pachinko parlors, who concealed an average of 32.3 million yen (\$235,000) in income, the agency said. Pachinko is a

game similar to pinball.

The agency said it discovered 834.7 billion yen (\$6.1 billion) of undeclared income in fiscal 1989, up 5.4 billion yen (\$39 million) from a year earlier. Fiscal 1989 ended in March, 1990.

The agency said it investigated 157,408 self-employed people throughout the nation and discovered that 96.3 per cent had underreported their incomes.

Each person concealed an average of 5.5 million yen (\$40,000) in income, up 610,000 yen (\$4,436) from the previous fiscal year, the agency added. The agency levied a record 203.5 billion yen (\$1.5 billion) in

penalty fines, up 5.4 billion yen (\$39.3 million) from the previous fiscal year.

Of Japan's 41.7 million taxpayers, about eight million are self-employed and prepare their own tax reports.

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Top brokerages in Japan disclose more paybacks to favoured investors

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's "Big four" brokerages disclosed Tuesday that they repaid favoured customers 43.5 billion yen (\$327 million) in fiscal 1990 for stock losses, contradicting earlier denials by some that they made such payments.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said that as punishment, the top four securities houses — Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi securities — would be temporarily excluded from the government bond underwriters syndicate.

Disclosures of earlier paybacks by more than 20 brokerages this summer angered many individual investors who did not receive compensation for their market losses and have prompted calls for a shakeup of the financial industry.

The four brokerages presented lists of clients they compensated for stock and bond market losses during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1991, to the securities dealers association, which released the lists to Japan's diet, or parliament, Tuesday.

More than half of the 78 payments disclosed Tuesday were made by Nikko Securities. Former Nikko President Takuya Iwasaki had testified before a parliamentary committee earlier this month that his firm made no compensation payments after March 1990.

Nikko acknowledged Tuesday that it paid 38 clients a total of 23.5 billion yen (\$176 million) in fiscal 1990. Nikko officials were not available for comment Tuesday evening.

Former Nomura Securities Chairman Setsuya Tabuchi retracted his own claim that his firm paid no compensation in fiscal 1990 after a finance ministry official told the parliamentary committee he had seen evidence of such payments.

The big four earlier reported paybacks worth \$930 million to about 200 companies and individual investors between September 1988 and March 1990. Legislators have been pressing them to disclose compensation made after March 1990, when prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange took their biggest plunge.

Mr. Hashimoto said the ban would begin immediately. Mr. Hashimoto's announcement caused a flurry of selling by investors concerned that auction prices might fall without the big four. But dealers said the selling was short-lived because expectations of lower interest rates were supporting prices.

They said the brokerages still can buy government bonds in the secondary market. As punishment for the compensation disclosed earlier, the ministry restricted operations by the four brokerages for four days in July.

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JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES
CO LTD

ANNOUNCEMENT

Jordan Phosphate Mines Co., Ltd. announces that the closing date of tender No. 16F/91, for the supply of 10000 - 120000 metric tons of wet aluminium hydroxide have been extended until 12 hours local time Tuesday 15th October 1991.

Wasef Azar
Managing Director



JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES
CO LTD

INVITATION TO TENDER 17F/91

JPMC announces the invitation to tender No. 17F/91 for the supply of 3,000,000 mtrs (three-million metres of cortex detonating fuses). The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman supply department until 2:00 p.m. local time Saturday 19.10.1991. Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD (45) for each set of tender documents. The closing date for submission tender is 12:00 hours local time Saturday 26th, October 1991.

Wasef Azar
Managing Director

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Ather Al Hakim

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ROOF TOPS

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

France, Belgium send troops to Zaire after riots

KINSHASA (R) — France sent troops to Zaire Tuesday and Belgium said 500 of its soldiers would be flown to its former African colony to protect foreign nationals after Zairean paratroopers rampaged through the capital.

Witnesses said they had seen the bodies of at least 15 people killed in the worst rioting and looting in Kinshasa in 30 years. Gunfire echoed through the streets of Kinshasa but the city was almost deserted Tuesday except for occasional military patrols.

The violence began Monday when disgruntled soldiers took to the streets to protest a missed pay rise. The French-trained Zairean paratroopers also took over the airport and started breaking into nearby customs warehouses.

Regular troops have retaken the airport. The Okapi Hotel, one of Kinshasa's biggest, and a Belgian-owned supermarket were looted Monday as were homes of Belgian and French nationals, the witnesses said.

Looters also attacked the home of Isaac Kalonji Mutumbayi, president of Zaire's National Conference, which has been trying to make democratic reforms after 26 years of Mr. Mobutu's strong-arm rule.

The main Zairean opposition parties have said the looting is linked to frustration over the slow pace of the conference which has met for only a few days since it was convened on Aug. 7.

The French Foreign Ministry said two companies of French troops flown in from bases in the Central African Republic and Chad took up positions at Kinshasa's international airport and also were protecting the French ambassador's residence.

It said Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko had given his approval for the deployment.

A third company of French troops was on its way to Zaire and would arrive soon, the ministry said. Military experts estimated the total strength of the units at about 400 men.

Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said his country was sending 500 troops in an operation coordinated with U.S. and French authorities.

"This intervention reflects our concern not to leave the French population isolated in the face of events that endanger their security," the French Foreign Ministry statement said.

The troops' role would be initially to protect some 6,000 French citizens in Zaire and possibly evacuate them later.

There are some 3,500 French

residents in Kinshasa, a city of three million people, and a large community around the southern mining town of Kolwezi.

Foreign residents took refuge in the luxury Intercontinental Hotel, ringed by an elite regiment of the Zairean Presidential Guard, after looters attacked expatriate homes.

State-run television was off the air and national radio broadcast only music punctuated with short news bulletins. The radio broadcast appeals for soldiers to return to barracks.

Belgium and France last sent troops to Zaire in 1977 and 1978 to help put down revolts against Mr. Mobutu's pro-Western government by former Kafangese Gendarmes based in neighbouring Angola, who briefly took over much of the key copper-mining region in the south.

Zaire has been in a state of chaos since April 1990 when Mr. Mobutu announced a return to multi-party politics. The country's economy based on copper and cobalt exports collapsed shortly afterward due to low world prices and plummeting production.

Inflation running at about 3,000 per cent a year has created severe food shortages and sparked riots in major cities.

Truce holds in Croatia; Catastrophe feared in Bosnia

BELGRADE (R) — A ceasefire held in Croatia Tuesday despite sporadic fighting, but a senior official in Bosnia-Herzegovina said growing tension had pushed his volatile republic to the verge of catastrophe.

Reports from front line villages in Croatia indicated Monday night was the calmest for weeks, although Croatian radio said Serbian rebels fired mortar bombs on Laslovo, Vinkovci and Lovinac. It reported scattered shooting in other towns.

The lull in the fighting, following Sunday's ceasefire agreement between the rebel republic and the Yugoslav army after three months of fighting, was a spur to international efforts to solve the crisis.

The United Nations Security Council was due Tuesday to discuss a European draft resolution demanding a U.N. arms embargo against Yugoslavia and an end to the fighting.

A senior government official in Bosnia said tension was growing over movements through the central republic by Yugoslav army reservists and said he would have urgent talks Tuesday with Yugoslav Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic.

"If I don't succeed with Kadijevic, there will be a catastrophe," Muhammad Cengic, Bosnia's deputy prime minister, told Reuters before leaving the Bosnian capital Sarajevo for the talks in Belgrade.

"I will ask Kadijevic to pull the reservists out of Bosnia-Herzegovina, not to permit transport of weapons or troops without the consent of the Bosnian government and to disarm all paramilitary units," he said.

The Serbian-led Yugoslav army, deployed in Croatia as a buffer between warring Serbs and Croats, sent columns of reservists moving through Bosnia towards Croatia last week.

Their movements increased friction between local Serbs, Muslims and Croats in the multi-ethnic republic where many Yugoslavs and diplomats fear ethnic violence could explode into full-scale civil war.

Armenians, Azeris agree on Karabakh

MOSCOW (R) — Russian leader Boris Yeltsin, underlining the power shift away from Kremlin, has pulled off a surprise agreement between warring Armenia and Azerbaijan to try and resolve their running ethnic conflict.

The diplomatic triumph, signed late Monday in the southern Russian spa town of Zheleznovodsk, produced the first breakthrough in three years of bloody clashes over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. More than 800 people have died since 1988.

"This document is signed, it's a historic act and a historic document," said a jubilant Yeltsin, co-sponsor of 12 hours of unprecedented talks between the two rivals.

"It's a document based on compromise but it gives some possibility for progress to put an end to the bloodshed," Mr. Yeltsin told a news conference after the marathon session, co-sponsored by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The agreement — even if short-lived — confirmed the central role now played by the republics in what remains of the Soviet Union after last month's failed hardline coup. Past efforts by the Kremlin to halt the bloodshed had failed.

But even as the presidents of the rival republics were shaking hands, renewed fighting broke out in Armenian and Azeri villages in and around Karabakh, news agency reports said.

Prospects for civil peace were also in doubt in two other Soviet flashpoints, the Transcaucasian Republic of Georgia and the Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan, along the border with Afghanistan.

New orders from the Soviet Defence Ministry made it clear the republics would be left to sort out their own problems. Soviet news agency (TASS) said troops were told not to interfere in ethnic or internal conflicts in "sovereign republics."

The Karabakh Accord, signed just before midnight Monday, called for a ceasefire, the disarming of warring groups by next January, and elections to a new local authority — dissolved two years ago.

Both sides also agreed to accept Russian and Kazakh observers and to work towards resettling the hundreds of thousands of refugees caused by the upheaval.

Nagorno-Karabakh, populated mainly by Armenians, has been run for nearly seven decades by Azerbaijan, which rejects the territory's demand to be united with Armenia.

But the independent Interfax News Agency said what remained of Soviet central power had been invoked to help twist arms and

keep the negotiations on track. It said Defence Minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, also a party to the talks, had warned Moscow was prepared to pull its forces out of Karabakh by Jan. 1 if a ceasefire were not agreed, depriving both sides of its limited protection.

"Serious work lies ahead," said Armenian leader Levon Ter-Petrosyan. "The document should have been completed earlier, but it didn't happen, because the central authorities claimed the role of mediator."

He and Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov shook hands after the signature. Leaders of the two republics have been barely on speaking terms since the outbreak of hostilities.

"We talked, we argued it's true. But all the same we held discussions. I expected it to be much worse," said Tamerlan Karayev, Mr. Mutalibov's deputy.

Armenia became the 12th Soviet republic to proclaim its independence from Moscow after last weekend's referendum showed 94 per cent of voters favoured secession.

Soviet television showed jubilant members of parliament in Yerevan waving flags and applauding after voting unanimously to issue the proclamation, blessed by Armenian Catholics Vazgen I.

Giscard d'Estaing backs down on immigration words, not substance

PARIS (R) — Former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who sparked a bitter furor by saying immigration in France was turning into an "invasion," backed down on the wording but not the substance of his remarks Monday.

His emotive language split France's right-wing opposition, with moderate conservatives accusing him of chasing after the electorate of Jean-Marie Le Pen's extreme-right National Front in an undeclared bid to be re-elected as president.

"If the word shocks, use another word. I'm not wedded

to the word. Let's say 'big population movement' instead," Mr. Giscard d'Estaing, 66, said in a radio interview.

But the ex-president, in office from 1974 to 1981, stuck to the main argument of his weekend magazine article — that faced with a growing wave of Third World migrants, France must stop giving "automatic citizenship to children born here of foreign parents."

Nationality should be determined primarily by "blood rights," not place of birth, he wrote in Le Figaro magazine. The kind of problem we are facing is changing from one of

immigration... towards one of invasion."

Socialist government leaders voiced disgust at the remarks, but criticism was not confined to the left.

Francois Leotard, once one of Mr. Giscard d'Estaing's closest political allies, asked in article for the daily Le Monde:

"How on earth did we reach this point? What series of cave-ins, acts of cowardice, compromises and flattery led the greatest leaders of this country to turn Mr. Le Pen into the dark star around which frantic and jealous thoughts gravitate?"

Noriega aide tells of visit to Castro

MIAMI (R) — Former Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega's ex-bodyguard testified Monday that he had accompanied his boss to a hastily arranged meeting with Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Luis Del Cid, who said he first met Gen. Noriega when the two were young soldiers together, gave few details about the 1984 meeting in Havana arranged after troops raided a major cocaine laboratory in the Panamanian jungle.

Federal officials earlier said they believed Mr. Castro served as a mediator between Gen. Noriega and irate members of Colombia's Medellín cocaine cartel who allegedly had paid millions of dollars to operate undisturbed in Panama.

Some of Mr. Del Cid's earlier testimony characterising visitors to Gen. Noriega's private office as military officers, diplomats, drug pilots and four French "easy women" caused Gen. Noriega's lawyer to ask for a mistrial.

U.S. District Judge William Hoever summoned all the lawyers to the bench, cut off the earshot of the 12 jurors, six alternates and the public.

The judge did not rule on the mistrial motion. Instead, when prosecutors resumed questioning a few minutes later, they never mentioned the "easy women" again.

Mr. Del Cid said Gen. Noriega and Mr. Castro met late into the night, but did not describe their conversations.

Chile's ex-chief of secret police arrested

SANTIAGO (R) — The head of former Chilean leader General Augusto Pinochet's feared secret police chief was arrested on charges of plotting the 1976 car-bomb murder of a prominent exile in Washington, officials said Monday.

Police acting on a court order arrested Manuel Contreras and his deputy, Pedro Espinoza, who was chief of intelligence operations under Gen. Pinochet, Chile's former military ruler, Interior Ministry officials said.

Gen. Contreras and Mr. Espinoza

are wanted in the United States for masterminding the car-bomb slaying of Orlando Letelier, ambassador to the United States during the Marxist government of Salvador Allende.

Mr. Letelier became a prominent exile leader after a military coup led by Pinochet overthrew Mr. Allende in 1973. He was lobbying for sanctions against the military government.

Mr. Letelier and his American secretary, Ronnie Moffitt, were killed on Sept. 21, 1976, when a remote-control bomb set off by

anti-Castro Cuban agents blew up his car as he drove to work.

Detectives arrested Gen. Contreras on his farm in southern Chile Sunday and brought him to Santiago to stand trial on charges of murder and falsifying passports.

"At last it seems that justice is possible in Chile," Mr. Letelier's son Juan Pablo told Reuters.

"This man who was once untouchable is no longer above the law," said Mr. Letelier, a young Socialist congressman since Chile's return to democracy in March last year.

N. Zealanders still mistrust the French

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealanders retain a lingering mistrust of the French because of the bombing of a Greenpeace ship and French nuclear testing in the South Pacific, Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said Tuesday.

Mr. McKinnon told Reuters New Zealand was trying to keep its ties with Paris "on and even keel" but it would continue objecting to French nuclear tests at its Polynesian atoll of Mururoa.

"There will always be in the minds of New Zealanders lingering mistrust," he said in an interview.

Ties between the two countries have been severely strained since 1985, when French secret agents blew up a boat belonging to the environmental group Greenpeace in Auckland Harbour. One man was killed.

The Rainbow Warrior was due to sail to Mururoa to protest at France's nuclear testing, which critics say is polluting the South Pacific. France rejects the allegation.

Mr. McKinnon said Tuesday he was determined to improve relations with the United States, but an anti-nuclear law which has frozen defence ties could not be rolled back.

Mr. McKinnon was speaking as Prime Minister Jim Bolger held rare — if brief — talks with U.S. President George Bush at a luncheon during the United Nations

General Assembly. Mr. Bolger, in remarks reported by the New Zealand Press Association, hailed the meeting as "an important development" in efforts to restore good relations between the two countries.

It was the first meeting between leaders of the two countries since the anti-nuclear row erupted in 1984.

Mr. McKinnon told Reuters in an interview, however, that legislation passed in 1985 banning U.S. warships from New Zealand waters, would not be reversed.

The legislation — introduced by the former Labour government as a protest against U.S. ships carrying nuclear weapons — has such popular support that the conservative National Party dare not scrap it.

Public opinion is still solidly behind the anti-nuclear stance which froze Wellington out of the Australia, New Zealand, U.S. defence pact, ANZUS.

"Welcome to nuclear-free Wellington" signposts greet visitors arriving at the capital's international airport.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Seoul plans to slash military size

SEOUL (AP) — The Defence Ministry, predicting better relations with Communist North Korea in one of the last rivalries of the cold war, said Tuesday it will cut the size of its army by half after 1996. The new defence programme calls for South Korea's troop strength to drop from 660,000 in 1994 to 400,000 after 1996, or about 1 per cent of the nation's population of 42 million. That comes on top of another drastic cut announced earlier this year from the current 830,000 troops to 660,000 by 1993. The two Koreas, divided in 1945 after World War II, fought a three-year war after the north invaded the south in 1950. They never signed a peace treaty, and more than 1.5 million troops are stationed on both sides of their tightly sealed border. According to international accepted figures, the secretive North, one of the few remaining hard-line Communist states, maintains 980,000 active-duty soldiers, plus more than 5 million reserve forces.

Gorbachev names new spokesman

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has named Andrei Grachev, a former Communist Party official, as his chief spokesman, Soviet news agency (TASS) said. Mr. Grachev, 50, replaced Vitaly Ignatenko who took over TASS after last month's failed coup. Mr. Grachev had been deputy chief of the International Department of the party's Central Committee. He speaks English, French and Spanish, and once studied Vietnamese. He told TASS his new duties had two central aspects — informing the press of Mr. Gorbachev's activities and assessing the domestic and foreign reaction to presidential policies. Russian leader Boris Yeltsin, leader of the resistance to the right-wing putsch, sacked the leadership of both TASS and central television for complicity in the coup.

Yeltsin's home town renamed

MOSCOW (R) — Boris Yeltsin's home town, where the last Russian tsar was shot dead in 1918, formally reverted to its original name Yekaterinburg. The Russian parliament's presidium approved the change from Sverdlovsk, the name given the city in 1924 in honour of Communist revolutionary Yakov Sverdlov, one of the men who ordered the shooting of the tsar. The parliament also granted the request of Patriarch Aleksiy II to restore the mediaeval name of the seat of the Russian Orthodox Church near Moscow. This becomes Serгиеv Posad in place of Zagorsk, the title the Bolsheviks gave it. In 1930 to honour a Moscow city Communist Party chief, Vladimir Zagorsk, assassinated in 1919. Russia's new rulers, keen to wipe away all symbols of the Communist past, have restored the pre-revolutionary names of towns and villages across the republic. Most notable was the renaming of second city Leningrad as St. Petersburg. Mr. Yeltsin, the powerful Russian president, spent almost all his early career rising up the Communist Party ladder in Sverdlovsk. The city of almost a million people just east of the Urals is one of the country's main industrial centres. It was founded in 1721 and named after the Tsarina Catherine I. The Bolsheviks shot dead Tsar Nicholas II, his wife, children and servants in the cellar of a merchant's house in the city in July 1918.

Germany CDU names new deputy leader

BONN (R) — Angela Merkel, a young east German woman almost unknown in Bonn until a year ago, was nominated Monday as the next deputy leader of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU). A no-nonsense workaholic with boyish short hair, Merkel, 37, has just started to make her mark as minister for women's and youth affairs in

Kohl's cabinet. She comes from the ex-Communist east, where Mr. Kohl won the last general election and may lose the next. CDU leaders at a party executive board meeting in Bonn unanimously nominated Merkel to take over former deputy leader Lothar de Maizière's post. A party congress in Dresden this December is due to elect her officially. "The situation in the eastern (CDU) party organisations is desolate," the newsweekly Der Spiegel commented Monday. "The party has lost about 60,000 of its original 140,000 members in the east since 1989."

Ukraine wants to shut down plant

KIEV (R) — The government of the Ukraine wants to shut down the crippled Chernobyl nuclear power plant by 1995, German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said. He told reporters that Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin made the promise to him during a meeting Monday in Kiev. Mr. Waigel, on a three-day visit to the Soviet Union, told reporters on his plane that Mr. Fokin was seeking German technological aid in closing down the plant that caused an environmental disaster after an April 1986 reactor accident. Soviet V230 and V213 pressurised water reactors in eastern Germany were shut down by Bonn last year because of acute safety risks. They are still widely used in Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union.

Pilot killed in Thai F-5 crash

BANGKOK (R) — A Thai Air Force F-5 jet crashed during a training flight in central Thailand Tuesday, killing the pilot, air force officers said. They said the plane went down with apparent engine trouble in a maize plantation in Lopburi province.

Former East German spy chief arrested

KARLSRUHE, Germany (R) — Former East German spy chief Markus Wolf was arrested Tuesday as he crossed into Germany from Austria, a spokesman for the federal prosecutor's office said. Mr. Wolf, wanted for running an espionage network that penetrated the highest levels of the Bonn government, fled to Moscow just before German unification last year. He later went to Austria, where he was detained after the failed Kremlin coup last month led to the downfall of his Communist protectors. The spokesman said Mr. Wolf, 68, would appear later Tuesday before a judge in Karlsruhe who would decide if he should be held in custody or freed on bail. Mr. Wolf had been expected to turn himself in soon to German justice but said an interview at the weekend he was not trying to cut a deal for himself.

Satellite detects gamma ray bursts

WASHINGTON (AP) — An astronomy satellite has detected short, powerful bursts of gamma rays in virtually every corner of the sky, suggesting the signals may originate from source near the edge of the universe, scientists said Monday. Gerald Fishman of the Marshall Space Flight Centre said that an instrument called the burst and transient source experiment aboard the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Gamma Ray Observatory has detected 117 gamma ray bursts since the satellite was launched on April 7. "They are randomly scattered throughout the sky," Mr. Fishman said at a news conference. He said the scattered sources came as a surprise because it was believed that gamma ray bursts detected by earlier instruments were all coming from the centre of the Milky Way Galaxy and were thought to be relatively rare. Instead, said Mr. Fishman, the bursts are occurring about once a day and are coming from every point in the sky.

COLUMN

Woman takes driving test, nabs bank robber

ODENSE, Denmark (R) — A Danish woman's driving test took an odd turn when a masked bank robber ran in front of her car. Her examiner, an off-duty policeman, ordered her to give chase and nabbed the culprit as the car drew near. The robber, who had snatched 145,000 crowns (\$22,000) at gunpoint, was arrested. Gitte Andersen, 21, passed her test.

Man convicted of posing as pediatrician

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A South African man who failed to finish high school was convicted Monday of causing the deaths of three babies during 10 years as a bogus pediatrician. A magistrate convicted Andre Esterhuizen of three counts of culpable homicide and a charge of illegally practising medicine without being qualified or registered. Sentence will be passed later.

Nearly 400 pilots caught driving drunk

WASHINGTON (AP) — Of the 47,000 pilots licensed to fly passenger planes in the United States, some 400 have been convicted of alcohol-related driving offenses, U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said Monday. Safety and consumer groups said the findings demonstrate a need for stricter monitoring of pilots. A pilots' association said the statistics were misleading because some convictions occurred before the applicants became pilots. U.S. pilots now are required to include on their medical disclosure forms any drinking-related convictions, and the responses are checked against computerised driving records. The aviation agency said it found alcohol-related convictions dating to 20 years ago. Pilots for Northwest Airlines had the most drunk-driving-related convictions, with 72 among its 5,600 pilots, the agency said. American Airlines was next with 54 convictions among 9,000 pilots, followed by Delta Airlines with 49 among 8,000; United Airlines, 48 among 7,900; USAir, 44 among 5,700; Continental Airlines, 31 among 4,000; Trans World Airlines, 20 among 3,400; and Southwest Airlines, eight among 1,100. The agency said its two-year review covered nearly all passenger pilots because they must apply for the renewal of their medical certificates each year.

Hit-and-run son kills mother

AMSTERDAM (R) — A 25-year-old man killed his mother in a hit-and-run collision, the Dutch News Agency (ANP) reported Monday. The 49-year-old woman was walking with her daughter on a dark stretch of road in the southern Netherlands at the weekend when she was hit by a car which failed to stop. Her son admitted to being the driver when he turned himself in to police Monday morning, ANP said.

Roseanne Barr was abused as a child

DENVER (R) — U.S. comedienne and television star Roseanne Barr has said that she was a victim of sexual abuse as a child. Barr told a meeting attended by sexual abuse victims, their families and aid volunteers that her father molested her frequently and her mother also abused her. Barr, who prefers to be called by her married name Arnold, said her father would tell her to fondle his genitals while he took a bath, "telling me to sit on his lap, to cuddle with him. My God, it is just too much for me to bear sometimes," she told the 1,100 people at the meeting. "My mother molested me as a small child and psychologically and physically abused me as well," she said. The meeting at Montview Presbyterian Church was organised by Denver's Kempe Centre, which treats child abuse victims. Barr said she remembered her "mother grabbing me by the hair on my 17th birthday and saying she wished I had died in a car accident the year before." She said she was making her story public to encourage other victims to seek help. Barr, who received several standing ovations from the audience, remembered "my father beating my head into a toilet bowl, while my mother stood there saying 'not in the face, not in the face.'"